MGW

MOM GUESS WHAT NEWSMAGAZINE
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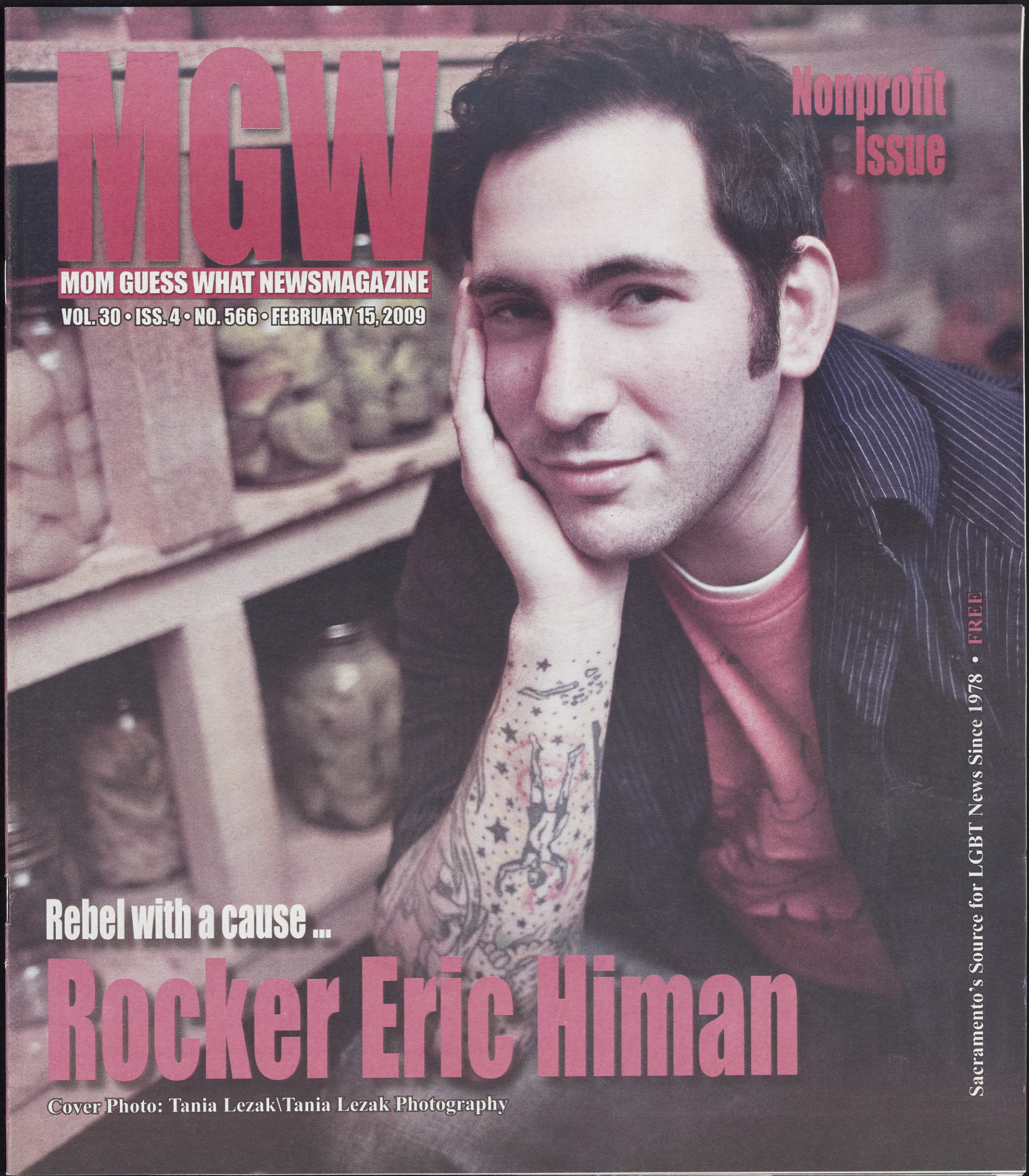
Nonprofit Issue



Rebel with a cause ...

Rocker Eric Himan

Cover Photo: Tania Lezak\Tania Lezak Photography

Sacramento's Source for LGBT News Since 1978 • FREE

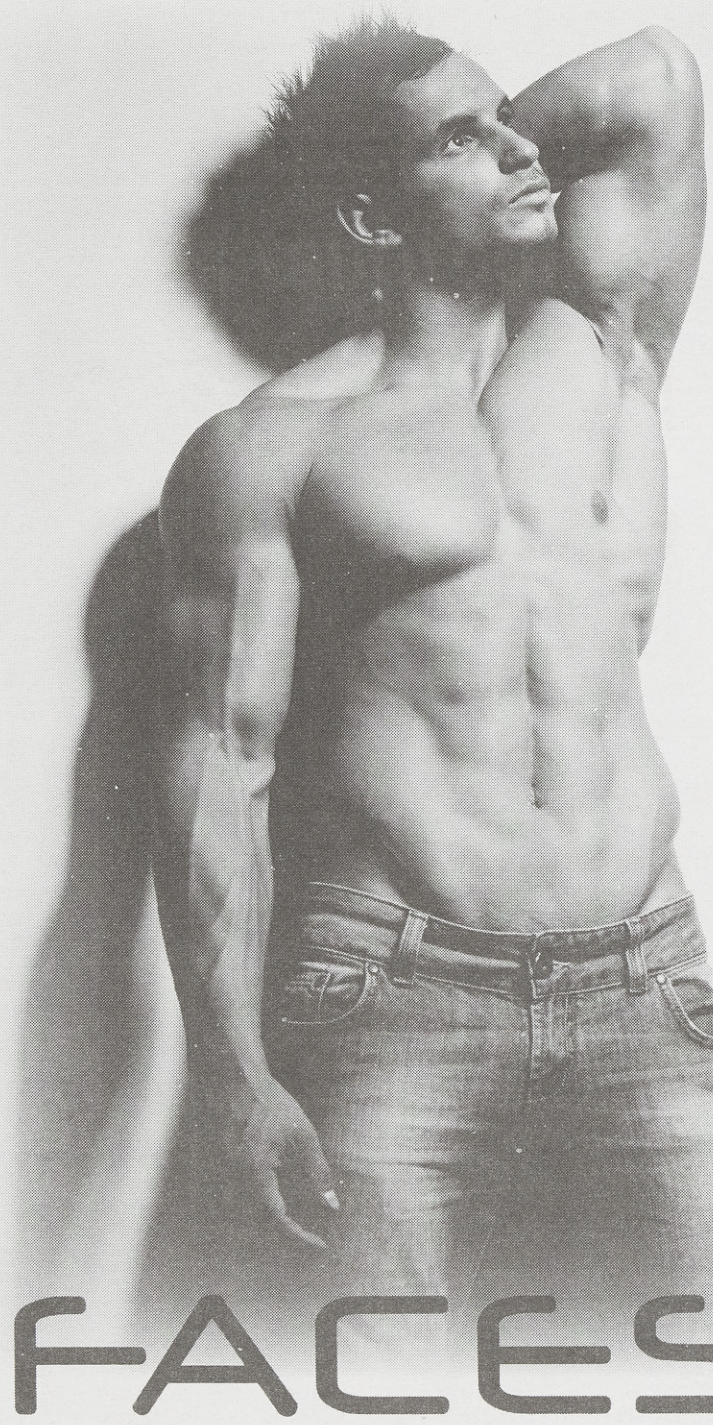
Look Whats New & Upcoming!

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 20th - Club Octopussy Returns!
Friday, April 3rd - Live Performance By Kat Deluna

Coming Soon

BOLT Flashlight Party In ***FACES*** VIP Lounge
Watch For Updates on www.myspace.com/facessac



FACES

Nightlife Built For You!

Weekly Schedule!

Monday

Win Cash - Give-Away @ Midnight
Next 7 Weeks Watch RuPaul's New Show DragRace
With Your Host Monique Moore @ 10:00pm
Karaoke @ 9pm

Tuesday

Latin Night Featuring Live Shows & Hot Go Go Dancers
Drink Specials Throughout The Night!

Wednesday

75¢ Well Drinks & 75¢ Draft Beers 8pm -Midnight!
Featuring 80's Music, Country, Top40 & R&B

Thursday

All New SEXXX Thursdays Features All Male Strippers,
Erotic Shadow Dancing, Weekly Contests, Hot Go Go Dancers
And Drink Specials All Night Long!

Friday

Furlough Fridays
"NO COVER" With State I.D. (special events excluded)
75¢ Well Drinks & 75¢ Draft Beers 7-9pm
Featuring 70's Music, Country, High Energy, Top40 & R&B
Hot Go Go Dancers Entertaining You All Night!

Saturday

75¢ Well Drinks & 75¢ Draft Beers 7-9pm
Featuring 70's Music, Country, High Energy, Top40 & R&B
Hot Go Go Dancers Entertaining You All Night!

Sunday

$2.00 Double Well Drinks - $1.00 Draft Beers
Dancing 3-9pm -Dragalicious Show @ 9pm

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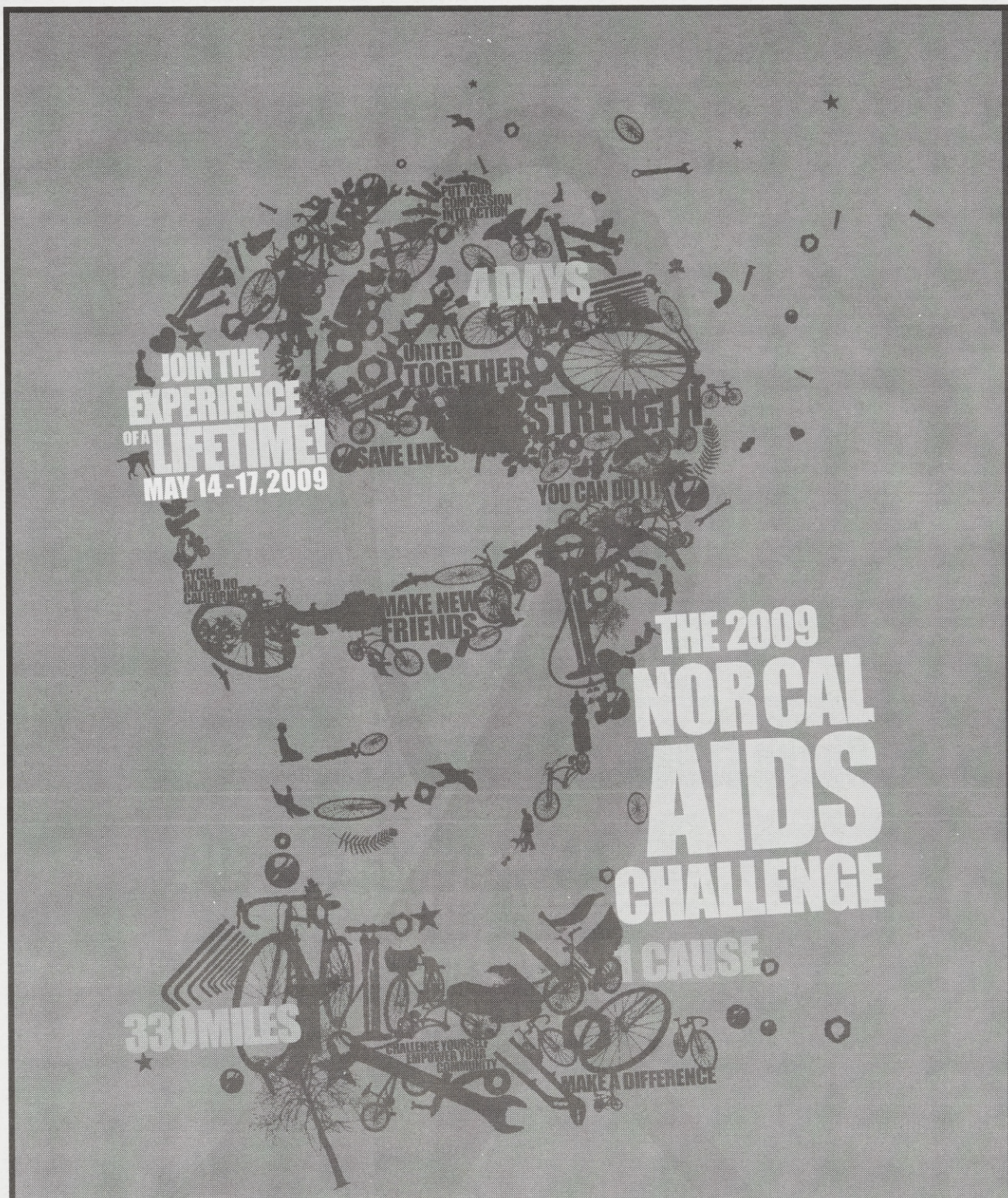


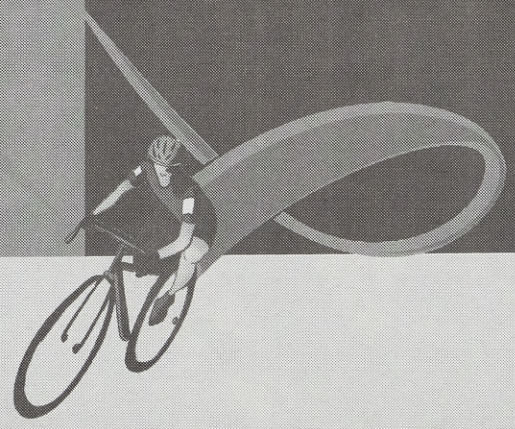
The 5th Annual NorCal Aids Challenge is a

4-day, 330 mile charity cycling event to benefit HIV/AIDS service providers in the inland Northern California region. This volunteer based event focuses on giving as much back as possible to those that depend on us.

All fitness levels are encouraged to participate in this life changing event. The ride is very rewarding and is fully supported with rest stops, meals, and support crew. Remember, you will make lifelong friends who are all in this together. This ride is at your pace...not a race!

Come meet others who have made a difference!

Thursday, February 19th
6 pm - 8 pm
REI, 1790 Expo Parkway
Sacramento



Join us for this life changing event!

May 14-17, 2009

MATTHEW BURLINGAME HAS BEEN THE EDITORIAL DIRECTOR OF MGW FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS. HE IS AN AWARD WINNING JOURNALIST AND PLAYWRIGHT AND HAS WORKED WITH, AND WRITTEN FOR BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS THE PAST 14 YEARS. EDITOR@MOMGUESSWHAT.COM

PHOTO BY LIZ INGERSOLL FOR MIA BELLA IMAGES.

On the cover of this issue is one of my favorite singers: Eric Himan. Disappointed that he wasn't going to be able to make it to the Lobby For Love rally, but was sending a video of support instead, I asked him why this rally was so important to him. Below he answers that question.

Eric shares a passion not only for music, but also for bettering the lives of the LGBT community. He often plays for various charity events and fundraisers as well as supports nonprofits that are near and dear to his heart.

I have been involved with LGBT nonprofits for over ten years. In fact many of my closest friends are also knee deep in the nonprofit sector. We affectionately refer to ourselves as "nonprofit whores" — if there is a nonprofit group in the community chances are we've worked for them, volunteered for them, helped out, donated, supported and in some cases even started them.

Indeed our community is fortunate to have an abundance of nonprofit groups providing everything from HIV support to choruses to social groups to general community support I can name at least 15 nonprofits off the top of my head that I have spent time helping at length. But there are two nonprofits that I always go out of my way to support, even though I am no longer on their boards or volunteer lists.

The first organization is Lambda Players Theatre. I began volunteering with the nomadic group in 1998 as a ticket taker during their shows at the W.M. Geery Theatre and Sierra II Stage.

I fell in love with theatre through working with them. During my eight years with Lambda Players, I went from taking tickets to actor, board member, playwright, stage manager, director and retired as the Artistic Director of the company several years ago when we had our own theatre space on Broadway.

The experiences I had — the good and bad, the laughter and tears, the egos and divas, the friends and the "family" — will remain with me as some of the best experiences of my life. For that reason, I will always extend a hand to the theatre, when I can, to keep it moving forward as do many former Lambda Players who have helped keep the group alive for the past 22 years.

Lambda Players, in whatever form they took, were always and will always be a defining organization in our community's culture.

Speaking of Sacramento's LGBT culture brings me to my second "pet" nonprofit: the Lavender Library Archives & Cultural Exchange. Being a writer, I have always had a love of books. Having learned about gay culture and history — not to mention the mechanics of gay life, sex and art — from books as well, I hold LGBT literature in high esteem.

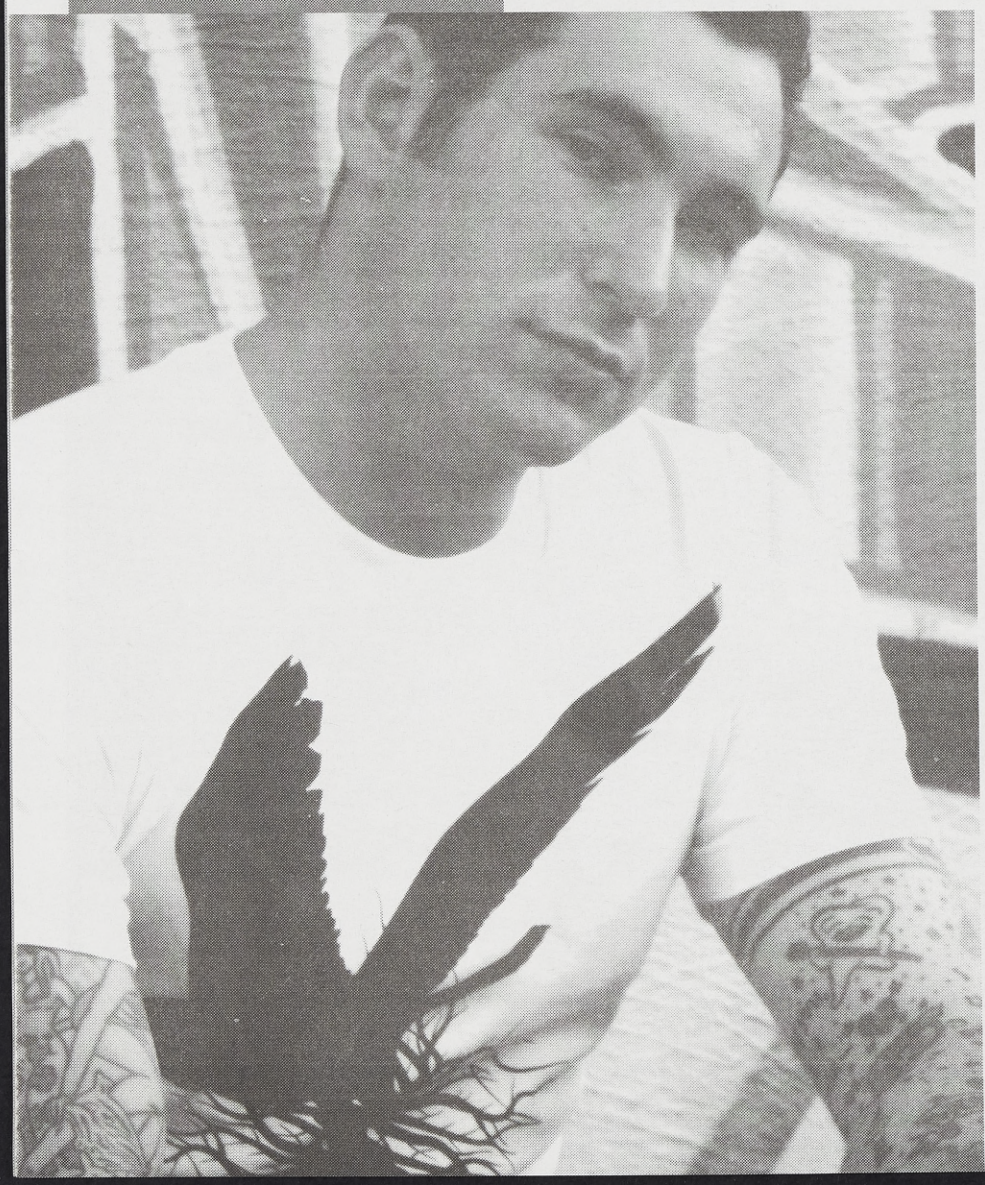
I was fortunate enough to be one of the community members the late, great Library Goddess Gail Lang brought together on the founding board of the Lavender Library. Being young and passionate about activism at the time, it was a humbling learning experience I will never forget. I will always be thankful to have played that part in preserving our community's culture and heritage.

The library celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2008 with an amazing group of board members and volunteers who have kept the organization one of the most stable nonprofits in Sacramento. Board President Clint Vigen remains the last founding member on the board. Sadly the two people who were the reason the library even exists — Gail Lang and Michael Bennett — have both passed on.

While these two nonprofits hold a special place in my heart, I could go on about so many others who are worthy of our community's praise and support.

As we celebrate a mere fraction of our nonprofits this issue, remember that whatever organizations you choose to support, that this economic crisis is hitting them harder than most businesses. This month please take a moment to send a them a little support, if you can't send money, give them a little of your time. They, and you, will be better for it.

Rocker Eric Himan Supports "Lobby For Love" on Feb. 16



On President's Day, Mon., Feb. 16 at 1 p.m. PST, citizens from across the state and country will converge on the West Steps of the California State Capitol Building to let the country know the issue of same-sex-marriage is a civil rights issue and that Prop. 8 should be overturned.

Sacramento-based Equality Action NOW and Los Angeles-based California Outreach have teamed up along with Marriage Equality USA, Equality California (EQCA) and with the sponsorship of over 50 local, state, and national organizations, businesses and media to present "Love and Marriage — Come Wearing White — Leave Seeing RED!" rally.

Rocker Eric Himan, who has won the hearts of audiences during his many appearances in Sacramento was unable to appear at the rally, but submit a video message of support to the event.

"I at first was saddened by the results of the election concerning Prop. 8 this past year but seeing that this rally is taking place," says Himan. "I am happy to see that the LGBT community is not letting the book close on this issue."

He continues, "I was asked to attend or submit a video message by the lovely Tina Reynolds who is working on behalf of Equality Action NOW and other supporting organizations for marriage equality. She inquired about my song. "Protest Song" which she felt fit the mood of the Love and Marriage rally that is taking place on the Feb. 16. I was honored to be invited. I was so excited at the possibility of being a part of something so positive and historic going on there in Sacramento. Organizations are starting to join together in the fight for our equal rights and more companies are following in their footsteps.

"My 'Protest Song' was written in response of all the inequality I saw as a member of the LGBT community. The idea that someone's sexuality can stand in the way of serving our country in the military, marrying someone of the same sex, or holding your religion sacred is beyond me. I am very proud all those who are standing on the front lines at the rally sharing their stories and thoughts. I know it will make a difference in our future and we will look back on these days with the same pride that we feel today."

Also among the many high profile entertainers, speakers, and religious leaders who will be attending this massive rally will be Attorney Gloria Allred and her client Robin Tyler.

On Feb. 24, 2004, Allred and her law firm, Allred, Maroko and Goldberg, filed a lawsuit in California challenging the denial of marriage licenses to same-sex couples as being unconstitutional.

On May 15, 2008, the California Supreme Court ruled in favor of equal marriage rights for lesbian and gay couples. Nov. 4, 2008 the passage of Prop. 8 caused the denial of marriage licenses to same-sex couples once again. On Nov. 5, 2008, Allred filed a petition challenging Prop. 8. The California Supreme Court agreed to hear her challenge.

On March 5, 2009, Allred and her law firm will once again face down Protect Marriage Coalition and Ken Starr in an effort to persuade the California Supreme Court to invalidate the law. At the "Love and Marriage" Rally both she her client Robin Tyler will brief the attending crowd on the issues and the battle they will face on behalf of the LGBT community and the thousands of couples who are willing and ready to commit themselves to one another.

BOYCOTT LIST

THIS IS A LIST OF BUSINESSES IN THE SACRAMENTO AREA THAT ALLEDGEDLY ENDORSED OR DONATED FUNDING TO THE "YES ON 8" CAMPAIGN. THESE BUSINESSES ACTIVELY FOUGHT FOR THE PERMANENT REMOVAL OF OUR COMMUNITY'S MARRIAGE RIGHTS THAT HAD BEEN FULLY RECOGNIZED IN 2008 BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. DO NOT LET YOUR MONEY SUPPORT THEIR HATE.

CINEMARK THEATERS
CENTURY STADIUM 14 (SACRAMENTO)
CENTURY DOWNTOWN PLAZA 7 (SACRAMENTO)
CENTURY 16 GREENBACK LN. (SACRAMENTO)
CENTURY LAGUNA 16 (ELK GROVE)
CENTURY FOLSOM 14 (FOLSOM)
CENTURY ROSEVILLE 14 (ROSEVILLE)

LEATHERBY'S FAMILY ICE CREAMERY (SACRAMENTO)

RICH BOTT-BOTT RADIO NETWORK (FRESNO/MODESTO/MERCED 99.9FM)

BUILDEX INC. (GRANITE BAY)

CULP DIVERSIFIED PROPERTIES (RED BLUFF)

ESTHETIQUE DENTAL CENTER (AUBURN)

GFBB BENEFITS AND INSURANCE (ROSEVILLE)

I WANNABE COSTUMES (W. SACRAMENTO)

KERR REAL ESTATE ADVISORS (FAIR OAKS)

LAW OFFICE OF H. CRAIG MILLER (ROSEVILLE)

LAW OFFICES OF KIMBER B. GODDARD (SACRAMENTO)

SHEPARD & ASSOCIATES INSURANCE (CITRUS HEIGHTS)

SIBLING SYSTEMS (ROSEVILLE)

SUPERIOR NOTARY, LLC (ROCKLIN)

IF ANY OF THE BUSINESSES LISTED ABOVE ARE LISTED INCORRECTLY OR UNFAIRLY, OR DID NOT DONATE FUNDS TO THE "YES ON 8" CAMPAIGN, PLEASE CONTACT MGW NEWSMAGAZINE IMMEDIATELY SO THIS INFORMATION CAN BE CORRECTED. IT IS OUR INTENTION TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION FOR THOSE CHOOSING TO FINANCIALLY BOYCOTT BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORTED "YES ON 8". WE DO NOT ADVOCATE VIOLENCE OR VANDALISM OF ANY KIND, NOR CONDONE ANY MALICIOUS ACTION OR BEHAVIOR TOWARD ANY BUSINESS OR INDIVIDUAL REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL POSITION ON PROP. 8. THIS IS AMERICA; THEY ARE FREE TO VOTE THEIR CONSCIENCE AND WE ARE FREE TO NOT SUPPORT THEIR BUSINESSES.

D.A. SCULLY'S CITIZENS' ACADEMY IS A MUST ATTEND

By Keith Johnson

Our community has recently been experiencing an increase in hate-related incidents and crimes. Attendance at the Citizen's Academy is open to us and is a safe space for members of our community to gain valuable insights into the Criminal Justice System.

Over the last 32 years I've been a victim of hate-related violence twice. The first time, when I was 22 and living in Denver, required a ride to the hospital — in the same ambulance as the perpetrators. Someone looking down on the parking lot where the attack occurred called the police (back in the days before cell phones). The officers were very good towards me in all of it, even going as far as to ride along in the ambulance to ensure no further violence.

The second time was two years later in Reno and resulted in damage to my car, and both my friend and I were beaten up pretty badly. We were scared and felt that the police in that era and location would likely not treat us well, so we didn't report it. Strangely, no one who witnessed this mid-day fracas, at the end of my attempting to lose the two bashers in the pickup truck, called for help either.

The LGBT Community has a history of being tormented and murdered by unenlightened members of society. These events bring interactions with the criminal justice system. As witnesses or victims we find ourselves face-to-face with police or sheriffs and possibly with the DA's attorneys or investigators. If evidence and debriefing goes well, we may then find ourselves in court, another cog in the wheel of justice.

All of this can be overwhelming, especially since most of us have limited understanding of the criminal justice system. To add to the confusion, television and movies tend to push incomprehensibly bad information as fact. This lets us think we know how the police, sheriff, District Attorney, courts, etc. work and that creates misunderstanding during the times we really need to rely on the system to help us.

Last spring I had the most enlightening "brush with the law" yet. Over the course of 10 Tuesday evenings, members of the LGBT and other communities attended the Sacramento District Attorney's Citizens Academy. It was intense and facilitated by top people in each department who truly understood their jobs within their agencies and how all of the pieces of various criminal justice departments fit together.

Any person can attend. It is extremely important that every agency serving our community should have some staff that attends this stellar program. There is no cost.

Simply download a form at sacda.org (on the lower left find Quick Link to Citizens Academy). The Academy page also has a link to an outline of the program and a photo of last year's class at the bottom of the main Citizens Academy page. (I'm the one with a yellow flag growing out of my head, just to the right of Sheriff McGinness.)

Citizens Academy Spring 09, April 14 to June 16, 2009, Tuesday evenings, 6:00-8:30 p.m. Sacramento Police Department, 5770 Freeport Blvd., For more info contact Jennifer Bubnes, Citizens Academy Coordinator, 916--874-4575 or contact Keith Johnson, kjohnson@strategyconsortium.com or 916-529-6259

Ed. Note: Keith Johnson and Marghe Covino have been members of the District Attorney's Multicultural Community Council (MCC), representing the interests of the LGBT communities and networking with other ethnic and minority communities in Sacramento County.

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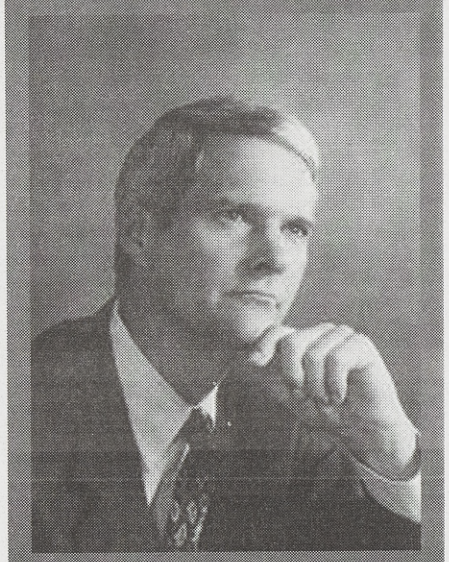

Libertarian Party Congratulates Judge Jim Gray On Retirement

LIBERTARIAN SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE STEPS DOWN AFTER 25-YEAR CAREER

America's third-largest party congratulates Libertarian Judge Jim Gray on his retirement from the California Superior Court, Libertarian National Committee Chairman William Redpath announced Thursday.

"Libertarians thank Judge Jim Gray for his decades of public service," said Redpath. "Because of his commitment to good law, California is a better and safer place to live. We congratulate him on his retirement from the bench and look forward to his future endeavors promoting liberty."

Gray was appointed to the Santa Ana Municipal Court in 1983 by Governor George Deukmejian. In 1989 Deukmejian appointed Gray to the Superior Court. A Libertarian, Gray was the party's candidate for United States Senate in 2004.

He has served as a member of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Program's Drinking Driving Program Advisory Committee, was co-founder of the "Drive Alive" program to deter teens from drunk driving, worked with the "Stay In School" program at local high schools and was a co-founder of BLAST (Bert Blyleven Leagues, After School Time,) a program providing children with after school athletics and recreation.

Gray also help found the Association of Former U.S. Attorneys, and founded the William P. Gray/Legion Lex Inn of Court in conjunction with USC Law School. Named for his father, a respected federal judge, the program teaches ethics, education, and professionalism to judges and lawyers.

Prior to taking the bench, Gray served as a staff judge advocate and criminal defense attorney in the Navy JAG Corps. He was awarded a National Defense Ribbon, a Vietnam Service Ribbon, and a Combat Action Ribbon during his tour of duty. Gray later served as federal prosecutor in Los Angeles and a civil litigation attorney in a private law firm.

A respected jurist and public servant, Gray's Jan. 24 retirement party was attended by Libertarian, Republican and Democratic officials.

Gray is also known for his work in reforming drug prohibition laws, aimed at breaking up street gangs and organized crime, and making communities safer.

For more information on this issue, or to arrange an interview with the Libertarian Party, please call Director of Communications Donny Ferguson at (202) 333-0008, x. 225, at 703-200-3669 or e-mail Donny.Ferguson@lp.org.

The Libertarian Party is America's third-largest political party, founded in 1971 as an alternative to the two main political parties. You can find more information on the Libertarian Party by visiting www.LP.org. The Libertarian Party proudly stands for smaller government, lower taxes and more freedom.

LIBERTARIANS STAND ALONE WITH VOTERS AGAINST SENATE PLAN LP RECOMMENDS TAX RELIEF FOR FAMILIES AND EMPLOYERS

America's third largest party tonight urged Senate Republicans and Democrats to scrap plans their joint plans for a $780 billion package of wealth transfers and expanded government spending.

"Poll after poll shows voters agree with the Libertarian Party. Employers and families need tax relief to create jobs and save," said William Redpath, Libertarian National Committee chairman. "What they don't need is politicians exploiting their fears to explode the size of government and burden our children with billions in new debt."

Recent polls show only 37 percent of voters support such a plans, with opposition rising fastest among independent voters. A Wednesday report by the Congressional Budget Office shows such a plan would cause long-term damage to the economy. With interest on the borrowed funds, the total cost to future generations of taxpayers would be around $1.1 trillion dollars.

"With both Republicans and Democrats siding against voters to explode the national debt and expand the government, it has become clear the Libertarian Party is the only party with a fiscally responsible plan to revive our economy," said Redpath.

Libertarians support replacing the wealth transfers and expanded spending with billions of dollars in tax relief for employers and families. Recent polling by the firm Rasmussen finds 54 percent of voters support the Libertarian approach of tax relief over the Republican/Democrat approach of drastically increased government spending.

For more information on this issue, or to arrange an interview with the Libertarian Party, please call Director of Communications Donny Ferguson at 703-200-3669 or 202-333-0008, x. 225, or email Donny.Ferguson@lp.org.

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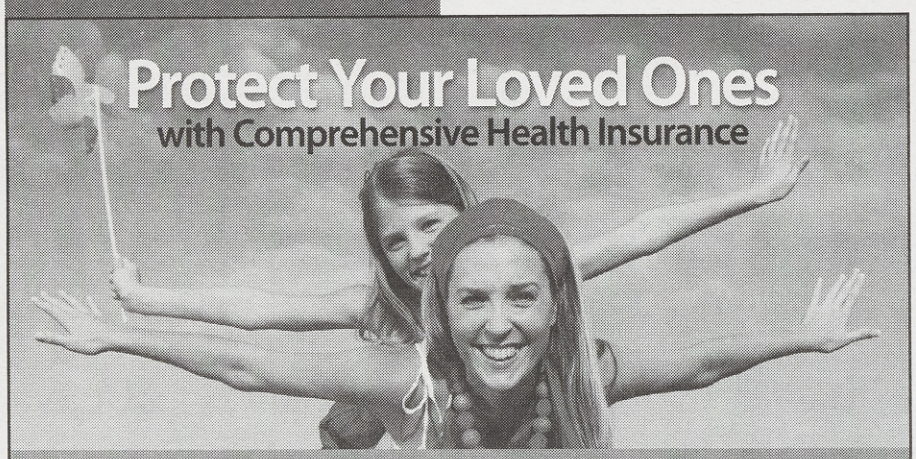

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Advancing Justice In Tough Times

2008 was a tough year for non-profits. The Lambda Letters Project closed after 20 years of existence. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) closed its Sacramento lobbying office. The Sacramento Ballet cancelled the last half of its season. In each case the action resulted from the difficulty these agencies faced in raising money.

The problem is compounded for non-profits (like Lambda Letters and MALDEF), that lobby on legislation, because most foundations are not permitted to donate to lobby groups.

2009 will be another difficult year financially for the non-profits which lobby on behalf of our community. So we need to determine the most productive, cost efficient, response to the passage of Proposition 8 and to generally advance the cause of justice in these tough times.

The Sacramento Bee recently reported on an LGBT Boot Camp held in Los Angeles. It seems the theme of the event was summarized by Cleve Jones. Speaking of overturning Proposition 8, he suggested, we need to do a better job of reaching out to minorities. He said, "We win this by going door to door and saying 'I am gay. I am lesbian. If you don't vote to overturn Proposition 8 it will hurt me.'"

I totally agree. Clearly we must reach out to minorities. They played a key part in the vote to approve Proposition 8 and they must be won over by any effort to reverse the vote. But we'll need to do a lot more than share our pain to win them over. We will need to demonstrate a willingness to listen to their pain as well, and to take concrete action to help them with their problems.

In the real world, most people want something in return for any help they give you. Recently the federal government has been tearing Latino families apart with immigration raids. African Americans still receive harsher penalties for cocaine use than white people do. Latinos often work on our central valley farms, and in inner city garment factories, under tragically unsafe conditions and with too little pay. And the LGBT community has done little to support legislative efforts to overcome these problems.

So here are some concrete proposals for winning support of minority communities for our right to marry and for other issues the LGBT community cares about.

1. Our lobby groups should build specific, concrete, relationships with groups that lobby for those communities and

- Meet with those groups regularly to learn the issues they are struggling with.
- Get specific lists of state or federal legislation they are supporting or opposing.
- Endorse the bills they are supporting.
- Spend time lobbying on behalf of the bills they support and opposing those they oppose.
- Tell them about our issues and seeking their support.

2. LGBT community groups could invite People of Color organizations to send representatives to our group meetings to explain the issues faced by communities of color and to build bonds of mutual support.

3 Individuals can help as well. They could attend state legislative committee hearings and express support for bills that People of Color are supporting. Our community often had 30-50 people at legislative committee hearings on the bills to approve same sex marriage. They could come out for bills People of Color care about as well. Retired people, or others who are available during the day, could form clubs whose purpose was to do this.

Individuals could also join the alert lists of People of Color groups or of groups, like California Communities United Institute, which issues E-mail alerts relating to several communities.

You may have better ways to persuade People of Color to vote for same sex marriage. But I think we are being naive if we think just explaining our pain will win over enough votes to overturn Proposition 8.

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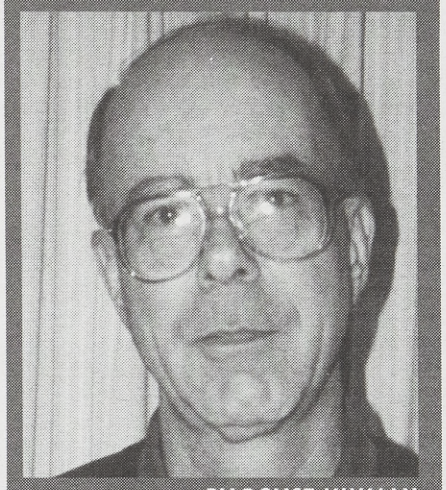

BY BOYCE HINMAN
CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES UNITED INSTITUTE
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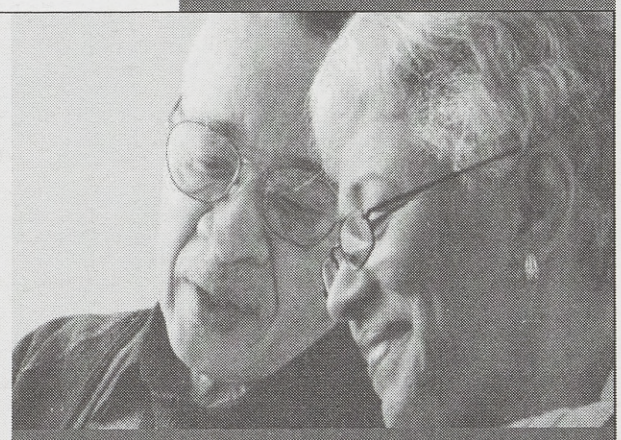
The Caregiving Journey Education Series



February – April 2009 Series Topics

Thursday, February 19th
YOU DESERVE A BREAK TODAY! CAREGIVER STRESS TIPS
It is important to maintain your health and wellbeing so that you can provide the best care to your loved one. Learn tips to reduce stress and stay healthy. All who attend will receive a caregiver stress relief kit.

Thursday, March 19th
TAKING A "TRIP" – FALL PREVENTION AND OTHER HOME SAFETY TIPS
Falls are the number one cause of injury and death in the elderly. Many falls can be prevented. Let us show you how to keep you and your loved ones safe.

Thursday, April 16th
LEGAL AND FINANCIAL ISSUES
In this rapidly changing world, learn how to safeguard your family's future and navigate the legal maze. Experts will share information that will ensure you have peace of mind when trying to make difficult decisions.

Knowledge and Preparation is Power, let us help you regain some power in this caregiving journey

Our education series is designed to help families gain the education and knowledge they need to care for their loved ones in a rapidly changing world. Learn how to be prepared for emergencies, manage the daily stress, safety proof your environment and gain the legal answers necessary to plan for your future.

We have created a series that will arm you with the tools and resources to become a knowledgeable advocate and more in control as you encounter new challenges along your journey.

The series will be held at our office at 8910 Sunset Avenue, Suite B in Fair Oaks on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 6:00-7:30P.M. Refreshments will be provided.

Space is limited. To reserve seating please call 916-965-5565. We look forward to seeing you there!

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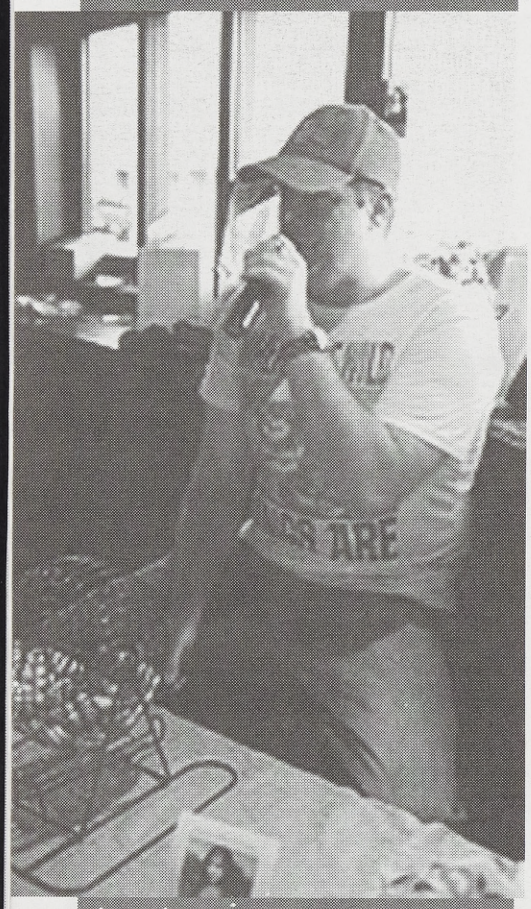
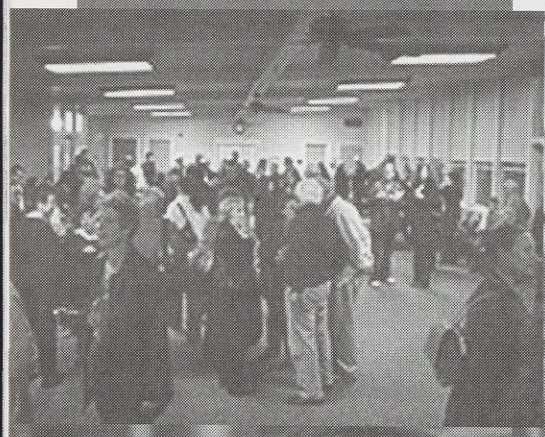
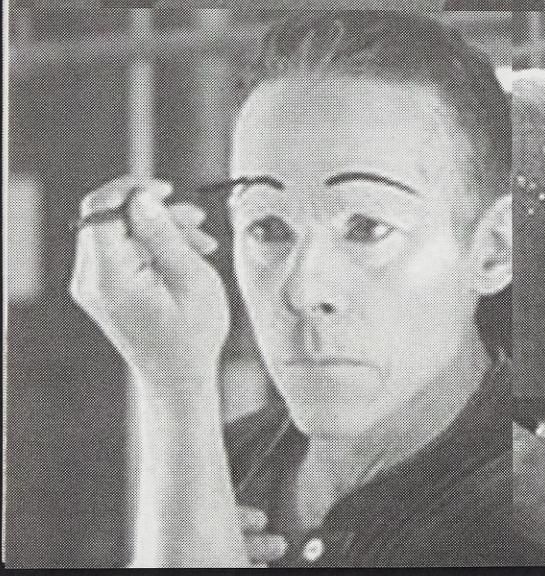


(ABOVE) MICHAEL KENNEDY OF KENNEDY GALLERY HOSTS BINGO NIGHT AT THE DEPOT PHOTO BY NATHAN FELDMAN

MORE PHOTOS FROM THESE AND PAST EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON MOMGUESSWHAT.COM

(ABOVE & RIGHT) THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY BEARS HANDED OUT A NICE CHUNK OF CHANGE TO LOCAL NONPROFITS FEB. 4 AT CLUB 21. RECIPIENTS INCLUDED LAVENDER LIBRARY AND LAMBDA PLAYERS. THE BEARS RAISE FUNDS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. (BELOW) OUT & BOLD NIGHT AT CAPITAL STAGE THEATRE FEATURING THE PLAY "THE SCENE" WAS A HIT WITH GAY ATTENDEES. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN MORE PHOTOS FROM THESE AND PAST EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON MOMGUESSWHAT.COM





TYLER COPPIN'S OPENING NIGHT OF LYREBIRD WAS A ROUSING SUCCESS AS SACRAMENTO EMBRACED THE RETURNING ACTOR TO HIS HOMETOWN. (ABOVE) LYREBIRD'S OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION. (LEFT & RIGHT) COPPIN PREPARES HIS MAKEUP AS HE TRANSFORMS INTO SIR ROBERT HELPMANN FOR THE EVENING'S PERFORMANCE. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN

MORE PHOTOS FROM THESE AND PAST EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON MOMGUESSWHAT.COM

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(LEFT) HUNDREDS OF SACRAMENTANS, INCLUDING MANY FROM THE LGBT COMMUNITY, GATHERED AT THE SIERRA COMMUNITY CENTER IN CARMICHAEL TO OBSERVE THE 12TH ANNUAL DARWIN DAY CELEBRATION. THIS YEAR NOTED THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH. THE FEATURED SPEAKER WAS DR. MICHAEL SHERMER, PUBLISHER AND EDITOR OF SKEPTIC MAGAZINE. (BELOW) PICTURES FROM SACRAMENTO'S LGBT PROM NIGHT WHERE MASKS AND MAYHEM WERE THE NORM OF THE NIGHT. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN

WANT MORE PHOTOS? CHECK OUT MGW ON ASSIGNMENT AT MOMGUESSWHAT.COM

(ABOVE) KING & QUEEN OF HEARTS CONTEST WAS HELD FEB. 8 AT CLUB 21 AND HOSTED BY SPADE MOORE AND MGW'S MIZZ MONIQUE MOORE. (LEFT & RIGHT) THE SACRAMENTO GAY & LESBIAN CENTER HELD A VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AND AWARDS NIGHT FOR THE CENTER VOLUNTEERS WHO GIVE SO GENEROUSLY OF THEIR TIME. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day at Oak Park Community Center

PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN

Ukrainian Fundamentalist Christians Hold Protest on National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Protect Your Soul
increased 11%
AIDS affects everyone! Don't be fooled by the signs around me. Whether you're boy, girl, gay or Straight AIDS CAN EFFECT You!

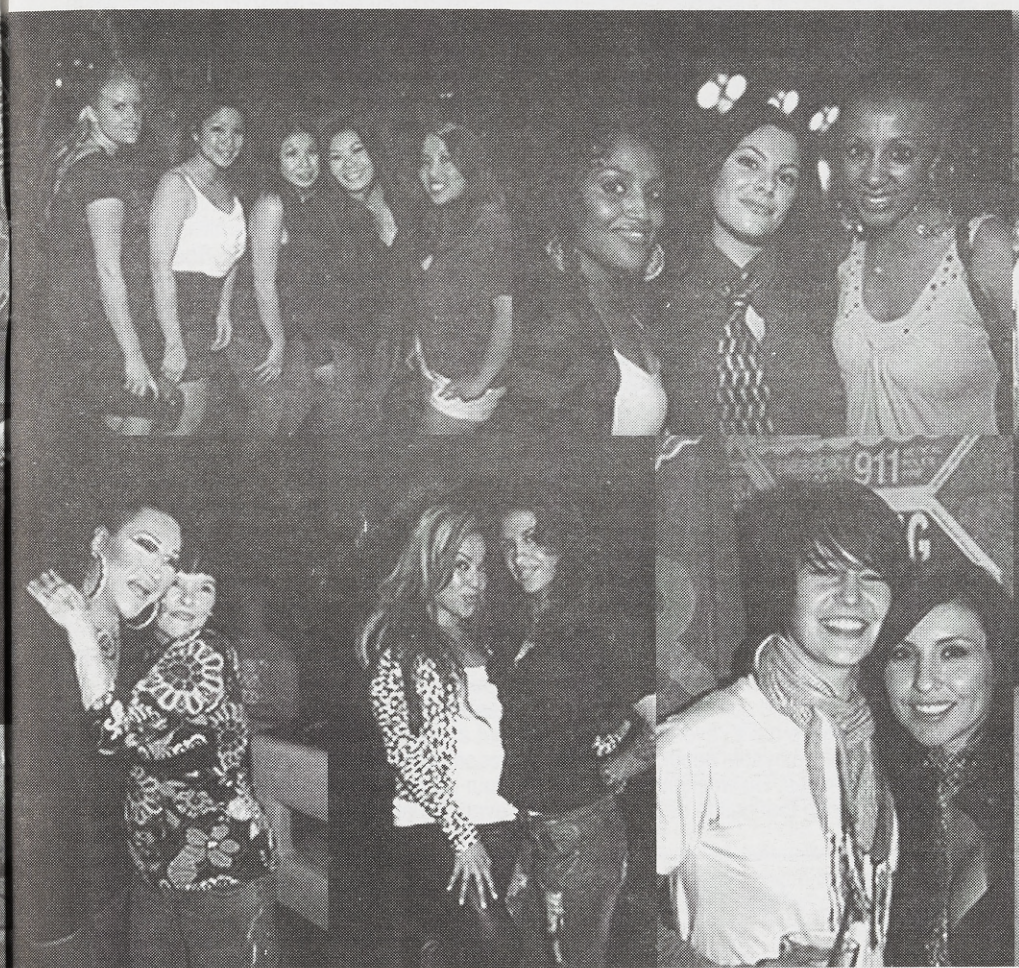
(LEFT) CARRYING MOCK COFFINS AS THEY MARCHED, UKRAINIAN FUNDAMENTALIST CHRISTIANS TOOK TO THE STREETS OF FAIR OAKS TO SPREAD THE MESSAGE THAT AIDS IS GOD'S PUNISHMENT FOR HOMOSEXUALITY. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN

(BELOW) TWO WOMEN FACED DOWN THE ANTI-GAY MARCH WITH SIGNS OF TOLERANCE AND THE MESSAGE THAT AIDS EFFECTS EVERYONE.

MORE PHOTOS AT MOMGUESSWHAT.COM

FACES Nightclub Presents Octopussy

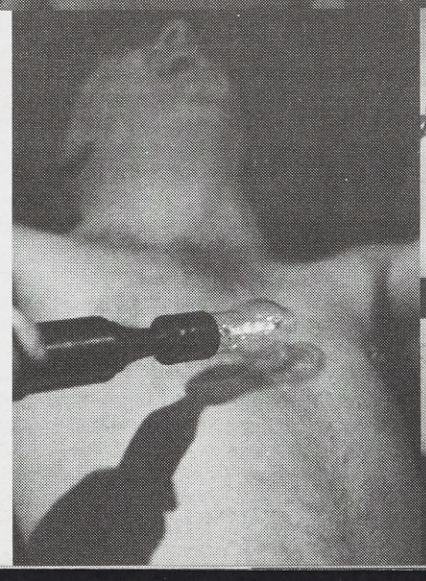
PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN



(LEFT) RAINBOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S SPEED MIXER. PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN

(RIGHT) THE BOLT PLAYS HOST TO A VIOLET WAND DEMONSTRATION. PHOTOS BY DAVE SHOREY

MORE PHOTOS AT MOMGUESSWHAT.COM



REVIEW BY ROBERT APPLEGATE
PHOTO BY NATHAN FELDMAN

Zocalo

ZOCALO IS LOCATED AT 1801 CAPITOL AVENUE IN THE HANDLE DISTRICT OF SACRAMENTO. MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY THEY ARE OPEN 11 A.M. UNTIL 10 P.M. THURSDAY 11 A.M. UNTIL 11 P.M. FRIDAY 11 A.M. UNTIL 12 A.M. SATURDAY 9 A.M. UNTIL 12 A.M. SUNDAY 9 A.M. UNTIL 10 P.M. DON'T MISS WEEKEND BRUNCH SERVED FROM 9 A.M. UNTIL 3 P.M. BOTH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. BE SURE TO SIGN UP ON THEIR WEBSITE TO RECEIVE INVITATIONS TO SPECIAL EVENTS AT ZOCALOSACRAMENTO.COM

Several years ago before becoming acquainted with the Sacramento dining scene, my daughter Lauren and I were driving down Capital Ave. looking for a place to dine when we came upon Zocalo. The restaurant was stunning from the outside which beckoned for us to explore it further. We were not disappointed with anything.

The parking Gods were with us on this first visit and we found a spot right in front (since then the parking Gods have been elusive and I often have to circle the area several times before a spot appears). Since our initial visit to Zocalo we have made the pilgrimage to the restaurant monthly to enjoy both the restaurant and all the wonderful foods that come from the kitchen.

In the mid 1920s the restaurant was once the home of one of the first auto dealerships in the area. Some of the original signage still adorns the exterior. Above the substantial double door entrance the name "Arnold Bros. Inc. Motor Cars" is fully visible. It's nice that this has been left as it allows your mind to wander and wonder what the area was like some 90 years ago. In the restaurant they have a framed picture of what the place looked like when "motor cars" occupied the same floor space. It's worth asking to see.

I would not describe this restaurant as pretty, but rather it is very masculine and dignified. The restaurant has been used in many local print ads as well as local news channel promotions. Aesthetically it's that appealing. Everything at Zocalo is massive. The glass walls that surround the building all open out, so that during our pleasant weather months the exterior and the interior of the restaurant become one. All of the furnishings from the lighting inside and out, the tables, booths, bar area, mirrors, framed flat screen TV's, and fireplace are all enormous. This is a huge restaurant both in square footage and in its furnishings. It is impressive.

Fortunately the food is equally impressive. Zocalo has improved upon the Americanized version of Mexican food and refined it. When you arrive the food runners are quick to bring you a basket of chips and a trio of salsas. The salsas are all equally tasty including a black bean dip, fresh pico de gallo, and a tomatillo salsa. Be careful not to over indulge in the complimentary chips and salsa as the entrees are plentiful. The restaurant is well known for its Guacamole which is made with fresh avocados, tomatoes, jalapenos, cilantro and lime juice. My mouth is watering as I write about it. I never pass up the chance to order the Camarones Habaneros which are crispy tiger prawns served with a spicy habanero sauce. All the entrees I have tried I have enjoyed, but I am especially fond of the Tres Tacos, three mini steak or chicken taco's (I prefer the steak) topped with guacamole, cilantro and onion. There are a few Vegetarian entrees on the menu. Each entrée comes with black beans and cilantro lime rice served family style for the table to enjoy. The food runners are always on hand to refill our cilantro lime rice bowl as we tend to empty that side dish frequently and quickly.

Save room for desserts as Zocalo has many worthy and tempting treats. Tres Leches cake is outstanding. We always attempt to order that dessert for the table, but sometimes they are out of it. If it is available, order it. It is very sweet and can be shared by the table.

The bar has more tequila than any other bar I have come across (and I know my bars!). Our server on the last visit thought they had over 120 different types of tequila on hand. The margaritas are all very tasty. I normally order the Margarita de la Casa which is made from 100% Blue Agave tequila, agave and fresh lime juice. This stuff is truly nectar of the gods and goes down so easily. Remember that and bring a designated driver. The margaritas won't hit you until you stand up, they are that smooth. My daughters tend to enjoy the Zocalo blackberry margarita, 100% blue agave tequila, muddled blackberries, agave and lime juice. For those not into tequila, the bar carries lots of other house specialty drinks, wines, beers, teas and soft drinks.

Zocalo seems to have several different personalities, all enjoyable depending on your dinning desires. On weekends they have great brunch that has to be eaten outside on a warm spring day watching all the beautiful people walk by. On weekdays the business crowd gathers here for lunch and the restaurant has a more professional feel to it. On Friday and Saturday nights, the place is loud. Lots of people crowd around the bar and the roar of the room only escapes when the doors are opened.

The staff at Zocalo are all very friendly, but I have to give kudos to the food runners. They work hard ensuring chips and salsas are always full and they lug around these gigantic silver water pitchers filling up water glasses without having to ask. The servers are always polite and efficient, the hostesses are always friendly, and no doubt the chefs in the kitchens are working hard, but the food runners are the real workers here.

This place has a community feel to it. They have lots of events for its patrons including tequila tastings and education, live music on weekends, and special parties for those that subscribe to its website. It has a nice community feel and one I enjoy partaking in often.

They have banquet facilities for those wishing to hold an event here. There is a children's menu available, but this place really is for adults as it can get expensive. They recently have introduced a $6.99 lunch special which is worth seeking out. The restaurant can be very loud both inside and out at times and for this reason I would not recommend it for a first date. However, on your upcoming anniversaries and special evenings out, this is the place to go.

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NorCal AIDS Challenge Celebrates Year 5

BY JEFF O'CONNOR

Regardless of any political affiliation, no one can deny our newly elected president's compelling and ongoing message about hope and change. Aside from an economic forecast of gloom and doom, more and more Americans, and even people overseas, are beginning to take the time to reflect upon the role of service in their own communities. Here in Sacramento, one of the more exciting opportunities in our own backyard and beyond is to participate in the NorCal AIDS Challenge.

In association with the Capital City AIDS Fund, NCAC is a 4-day 330 mile cycling event that raises funds for HIV/AIDS service agencies here in the Greater Sacramento area, mainly CARES, Breaking Barriers and AIDS Housing Alliance. Harm Reduction Services, the Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation, and the Shasta Trinity, Tehama Counties HIV Food Bank have hopped on board as well in recent years, receiving smaller grant awards. In just 4 years NCAC has become the largest fundraiser for these types of services, surpassing many other events in this region.

It was not long ago when the original founder of NCAC Rich Kirkham had ridden in both the California AIDS Challenge and AIDS Life Cycle. Others, like long time NCAC veterans Joaquin Feliciano, Doug McCalla, and Jim McCann, were discouraged that the inland Northern California region was not receiving any of the proceeds from these charity rides.

"Kirk decided to work toward putting together a Sacramento-based ride," says Joaquin Feliciano, former co-chair and cyclist. "He and I had met during training for the 2003 ALC. Rich, Doug, and I were the ones who pitched a proposal to the Capital City AIDS Fund and they agreed to serve as the parent organization for a 4 day event." Jim McCann and Paul Curtis served as the original co-chairs of the Executive Committee.

There have been many new and a number of returning faces over the years surrounding NCAC at so many levels. The ride began in 2005 with 19 determined cyclists and a complimentary sizeable support crew. "On a crisp May 2005 morning I packed my bags and left with 75 strangers, traveling the foothills for 340+ miles," says NCAC Event Coordinator Darci Gilbert. "Four days later when we arrived at the Capitol West steps for closing ceremonies I had to say good-bye to 75 friends that I found to be the most amazing, inspirational and talented people that I have ever had the privilege to work for. Thanking my lucky stars 2009 will be my fourth year with this wonderful family of giving folks, who unselfishly give their time and talents to this worthy cause."

Within years, the numbers have grown closer to 60 cyclists, a stronger SAG crew, a solid team of massage/chiropractic and medical volunteers, and the irreplaceable women's motorcycle escort crew the Sisters of Scota. Last year, this committed and unified NCAC community endured 100+ temperatures and fought themselves through North winds and as a whole managed to raise nearly $100,000 for local HIV/AIDS agencies in the Northern California region.

When they returned to the West steps of the Capitol in traditional dramatic fashion, the cyclists were warmly greeted by hundreds of their friends and family members showing their love and support.

NCAC means so much to so many people. When asked about his experience, Positive Pedaler and soon to be 5th year participant Doug McCalla says, "Over the 4 years I have been doing this ride I laughed, I cried, I moaned, I complained, I struggled, I pushed myself harder than I ever have before but I rode all the miles. It has been one of the most difficult and most rewarding things I have ever done.

The biggest thing I learned from doing the rides was that I can do anything I put my mind to and that I can make a difference." NCAC Board Member and veteran adds, "It's rare to find a niche in our lives that is satisfying on many different levels.

The NorCal AIDS Challenge is unique in that we find compassion, physical fitness, community, lifelong friends, strength, vision, love, and self-esteem all in one place. NCAC'ers give a lot of ourselves to this ride, but we keep coming back year after year because we're getting so much more."

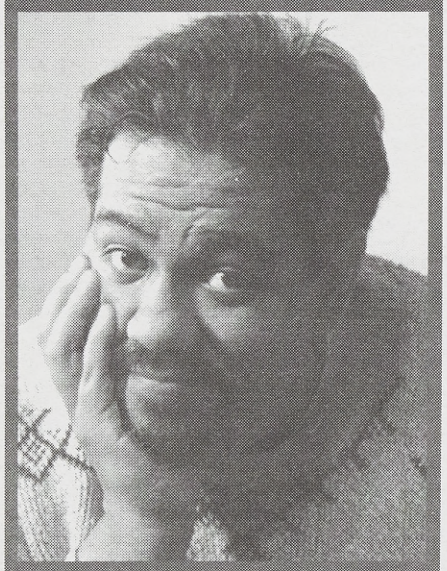
So if are you looking for ways to give back to your community, get in shape and an opportunity to meet new people that are sharing in the experience of a lifetime, consider participating in the NorCal AIDS Challenge, a 4-day 330 mile cycling event that raises funds for HIV/AIDS service agencies here in the Greater Sacramento area.

This year cyclists that participate are required to raise at least $1675 and are provided with an authentic 2009 commemorative jersey. The 5th annual event takes place May 14-17, 2009. Registration is still open for both cyclists and crewmembers!!! Stop by REI, 1790 Expo Parkway on February, 19, 2009 from 6-8 PM to meet others who will be riding in the challenge!

For more information about registration, donations/sponsorships, our training rides and other exciting events, go to our website at norcalaidschallenge.net.

PHOTOS: MGW ARCHIVAL PHOTOS FROM THE 2006 NORCAL AIDS CHALLENGE HOMECOMING CELEBRATION AT THE STATE CAPITOL. PHOTOS BY RICH JONES

NORCALAIDSCHALLENGE.NET.



HUMORIST AND SATIRIST DONALD E. MARSHALL IS A 35-YEAR -OLD GAY MAN LIVING IN HOLLYWOOD, CA WHO RECENTLY MADE SOME CHANGES IN HIS LIFE. OVER THE PAST YEAR, HE'S LOST 130 POUNDS BETWEEN DIETING, EXERCISE AND GASTRIC BYPASS SURGERY. HIS LIFE IS CHANGING QUICKLY, AS IS THE WORLD I LIVE IN. THE LOCAL ALL YOU CAN EAT CHINESE BUFFET HAS GONE OUT OF BUSINESS. TRAINERS AT THE GYM NO LONGER HIDE UNDER THE DESK WHEN HE WALKS BY AND HE'S EXPLORING THE WHOLE NEW WORLD OF FASHION, DESPITE THE PROTESTS OF LOCAL SALESGIRLS. BEST OF ALL, HE'S LOVING LIFE IN A WAY HE HAVEN'T IN YEARS!

Advice From a Shrinking Fat Man

ADVICE:
ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL.
THIS IS TRUE OF ALL THINGS.

One year ago I weighed 532 pounds. That number's hard to write, which is strange to me. It's not like it was a secret. I couldn't throw on one of my large print Hawaiian shirts (the "man muumuu," if you will) and blend the fat in with the floral wallpaper. You might be able to hide a little muffin top, but when you're hauling around the entire bakery people tend to notice. Hell, people tend to scream and dive out of the way.

To complete the picture, I'm 6 feet 4 inches tall and built large on top of it all. It should become clear, at this point, that I'm not a person built for stealth. My physical talents lie more in line with the sumo wrestler rather than the ninja.

Since that time, I've made a lot of changes in my life. First I worked on losing the weight in conventional ways — diet, exercise and constant complaining. Later in the year, I took a bigger step — gastric bypass surgery. All in all, over the past year I've lost 117 pounds as I write this page and am working hard to get down to the mystical land over the rainbow called "Ideal Weight". I hear they have unicorns there. Or weapons of mass destruction, I forget which.

Over the next few articles I hope to explain to the normal person what it's like to be large, what it's like to work your way towards "normal" and how it feels when you get there. Mind you, it's always possible I'll be writing about what it's like to be large, work your tail off, and stay large. But I'm hoping for the first.

I don't see how one can write anything about a journey and not talk about where one begins. How, most people will ask, did you ever let yourself get to be 530 pounds? Well, everyone's trip to the big side is a little different, so my story may not be the universal one.

Let me start with this: most scales only go up to 350 pounds, even in doctor's offices. I passed that mark in high school, but was still active, very physically capable and so I didn't think about it much. Once you go past that point, you're on your own, guessing at what your weight might be but never being quite sure. Keep in mind what this means: you have no numbers telling you about little gains. A smaller person can hop onto a scale and realize "oh god, I just gained 3 pounds! Time to worry!"

As a fat person, gaining 3 pounds is a drop in the ocean. Without a scale to tell you what just happened, you're likely to feel the same way you did 3 pounds ago, your clothes will likely still fit the same, and people don't look at you any differently. This works the opposite way, as well — I lost 50 pounds before people really started noticing that I was losing some poundage. With that in mind, you'll just have to take my word that you could gain 10 or 15 pounds a year and just not notice. This helps you to ignore the change as it gradually takes over your life.

In response to the day to day stress of everyday life, I fell back on the one thing that always gave me comfort: food. Yeah, I'll pause for a moment while you all take in that shocker. When people ask why you don't just eat less, it's interesting that they think they're being helpful. It's not a matter of just pushing away the plate — it's a matter of pushing away the plate 3 times a day, every day, always. When food is your reward for success, your compensation for failure and your comfort in grief, this isn't easy.

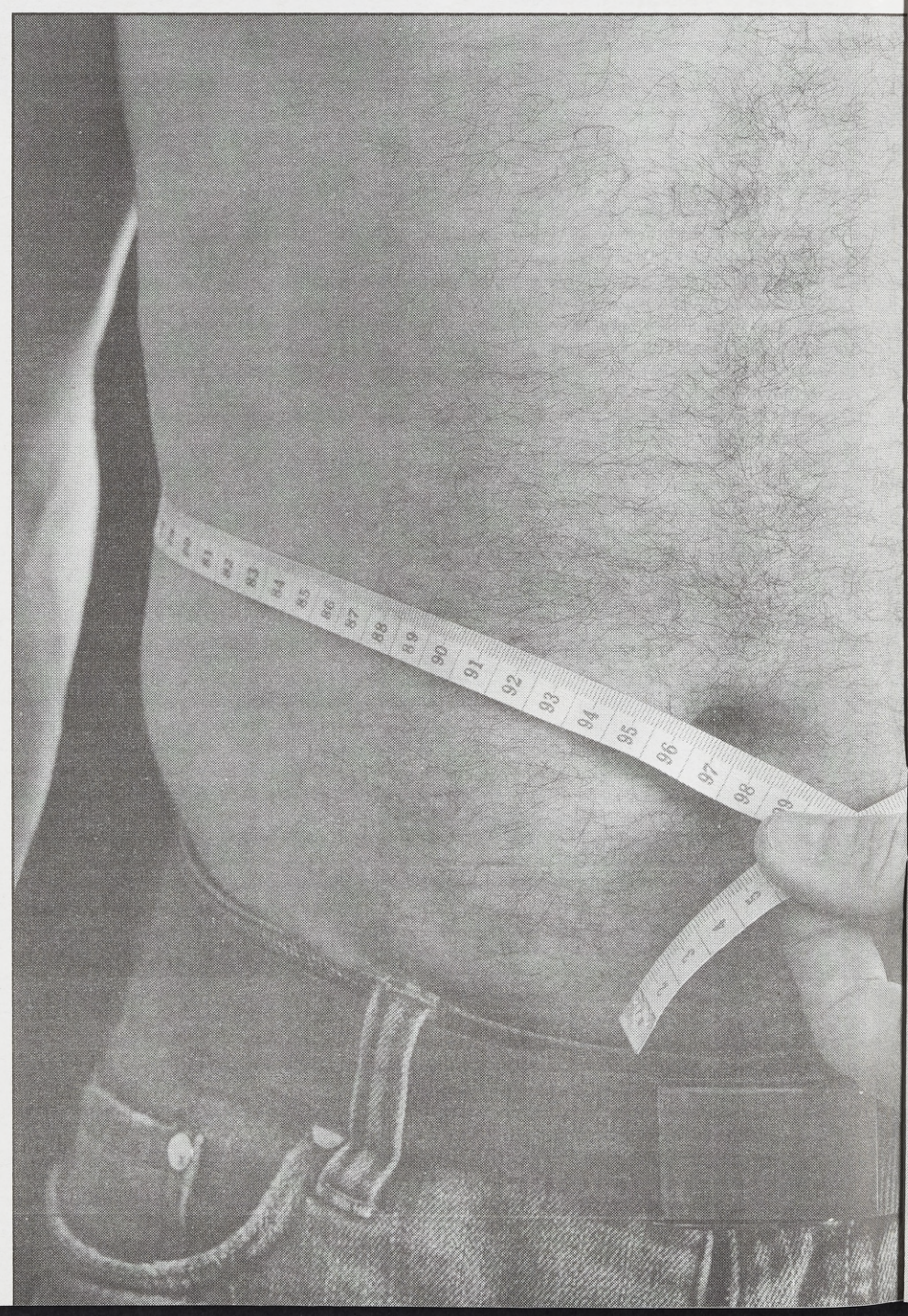
As someone who lives between West Hollywood and Silverlake, I'm stuck between one of the most body conscious places in the world and a place that pretends not to be. As a fat man I found that neither place really wanted me all that much, that there was no place in either community where I quite fit in. Since I couldn't identify with my gay community, I didn't really build a gay identity and instead built a fat identity.

That was easy — I had plenty of reminders. Some gay men can hide their identity in a "drag persona", but for me building the "fat persona" was the perfect escape. I imagine a drag persona and a fat persona are similar in a lot of way: wearing a different personality, bigger, sassier, and wittier than the real me, able to deal with the disgusted looks, the stares and the constant rudeness without any of the slings and arrows piercing the real me.

Unlike drag, though, you're fat 24/7, and you find yourself living the persona more often than you live as yourself. Somewhere along the way, the real me got lost in my persona. I wonder if that happens to drag queens? They just wake up one morning and bald, sensitive Bill has disappeared, replaced by a leggy redhead named Luwanda. So weight loss, in the end, isn't about the body. I wear the only body I've ever known, size 3XL and extra wide.

In losing weight, I'm gambling the life I've known for the life I've heard of, giving up many of the loves and relationships I've had for ones I'm imagining. And that's the final trap for any of us trying to change— the difficulty in imagining something different, to believe that my life can be other than what it is. The fear that it's all an illusion, an impossible mirage that will never quite be real.

Weight loss, ultimately, is about reclaiming the person you want to be. And maybe, just maybe, in the end we might discover that the bald, sensitive man named Bill was worthy of more respect than we gave him and that Luwanda wasn't all she was cracked up to be.



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* Median home price for Sacramento County has dropped more than 50% since 2005; individual neighborhoods may vary

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Despite Our Differences

BY JENIFFER WERTZ

In the spirit of non-profits, I thought I would highlight the fact that MGW is a free publication that is a valuable public resource in our community.

Through MGW, we can learn about things happening within our community, network with each other and become aware of important issues in our society that directly affect our individual and collective lives. An important part of that is the new Women's Voices Section.

This issue we are joined by a new writer named "Nikki". "Nikki" is a lipstick lesbian and has been my best friend for many years. She can be very silly, opinionated, passionate and sometimes soft and sensitive. Over the years she has made me laugh until I have tears in my eyes and sometimes cry in sadness. But mostly she makes me feel like I have a good friend for life that I am very proud to know. I am grateful that she has come on board.

I've been thinking of adding a sports news section, dedicated to mostly local women's sports like the Monarchs, the Sirens, the Sac City Rollers, the local gay bowling league, etc. I am also in search of a lesbian cartoonist. If any of you know someone who might be interested, like a student that needs to get some exposure, please let us know.

We want this section to represent the topics, people and stries our women readers are interested in.

Let us know about community issues that you would like to see addressed. Make your voices heard!

Send comments or questions to womensvoices@momguesswhat.com.

FOR A LIST OF HEALTH, SOCIAL AND SUPPORT RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO WOMEN OF OUR COMMUNITY PLEASE CHECK OUT THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE IN THE BACK OF THIS ISSUE.

Community Pride: Small Difference Women's Choral Ensemble

Small Difference Women's Choral Ensemble was founded in January, 2007 to sing music for Peace, Justice, and Equality. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Small Difference is a wonderful group of women who love to raise our voices together under the artistic direction of Sage Brown.

We have done many performances to support the causes we believe in including singing for several LGBT pride events, peace rallies, a marriage equality demonstration, raising money for homeless people in Sacramento, and many other events. In July, 2008 Small Difference went to Miami, Florida and represented Sacramento in the quadrennial GALA (Gay & Lesbian Association of Choruses) Festival. We joined 150 other LGBT choruses from all over the world to sing for one another and to raise our voices as one. It was the experience of a lifetime! Small Difference is a member of both GALA and the Sister Singers Network.

Although we are a GALA chorus, women of any sexual orientation may join us and our membership is about equally split between women who are lesbian, bisexual, and straight-but-not-narrow.

Our membership will be capped at four people per voice part for a total of 16. We still have a couple openings for new singers and we'd love to have you come join us. If you love to sing and can sing on key, come check us out! Our website is www.smalldifference.org. You can e-mail us at ASmallDifference@aol.com.

Help A Sister Out: Benefit for "Richmond Jane Doe" Sacramento Style

FEB. 4 AT BADLANDS, THE COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST HATE CRIMES AND SEXUAL ASSAULT. THE EVENT, FEATURED COOPER RAE, KINGS OF DRAG, CARLA FLEMING AND IMMOBME. IT WAS SPONSORED BY BADLANDS, EQUALITY ACTION NOW, MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA, SAC. GAY & LESBIAN CENTER, SAC. NOW, SAC STONEWALL DEMOCRATS, WEAVE AND MOM GUESS WHAT NEWSMAGAZINE. THE EVENT RAISED OVER $1000 FOR "RICHMOND JANE DOE". PHOTOS BY NATHAN FELDMAN

Lipstick and Other Misconceptions

BY NIKKI

Fedoras and vests are all the rage these days and can be worn to create both feminine or butch looks — whichever fits your needs. These butch/femme accessories started me pondering a confusing topic. While these opposites may seem to have a natural attraction, first impressions are usually not always what they seem.

The woman you see on the other side of the room wearing a dress and heels and looking submissive may seem on the surface to be what society has told us to perceive — soft, quiet and shy. Meanwhile, she has her eye on that tough-looking butch standing in the corner with her buddies. These differences in our lesbian communities — the Femmes and the Butches — are easy to spot. What is not so easy to decipher however, are personality traits that lie beneath the surface.

A tough exterior does not always precede a tough interior. In fact, it has become apparent to me that the tough exterior usually preludes a shy and/or very pliable inner self. Vice versa, the quiet looking femme across the room may indeed possess a very aggressive and/or controlling mind. In my experiences, those butches usually are very romantic and mushy compared to the femmes, who usually have been demanding and aggressive.

Maybe that is why the butches usually choose career paths that are very straightforward with rules and authority, such as construction or firefighting — they are either told what to do and they do it or they know the rules and follow them strictly; whereas, a femme may have a role where she is more likely in charge or creative with less structure at her job, such as an artist, writer, or attorney. Do butches like to be told what to do? Do rules make them feel safe? Do femmes like to do the leading; does this make them feel "in charge"? How about in bed? Do I dare discuss?

Now, these observations are not written in stone, I am only speaking from my perspective. I am sure there are true butches out there and true femmes and when I use the term "true" I am referring to inside and out of what we perceive to be — or what they may be advertising that they are. I believe those to be few and far between however, considering the norm and things can get confusing out there.

But that is one of the perks of meeting someone new; learning and peeling back the layers to ultimately reveal the true personality. That is part of the process of intimacy and the initial attraction.

Tough chicks don't always resonate without lipstick applied, and soft girls usually wear blue jeans, keep their hair cropped short, looking very boyish. Is it just me, or has our own community played a dirty joke on us. I like dirty jokes and either way it is all in good fun to let the experience unfold.

We cloak ourselves with identity markings that don't necessarily reflect our true selves. We hide behind false personas for one reason or another. Maybe we want to be both — we are women after all, and we as lesbians can indeed *have* both, that is one of the many perks. So throw on those fedoras and vests ladies and let's have some fun!

womensvoices@momguesswhat.com

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Michael Cook, owner of Fitness Happens, is a volunteer at Sacramento's Lavender Library, Archives & Cultural Exchange. Shortly after he began getting involved he started the planning process of completely redesigning the library's interior. One year later and with a generous donation from the Sacramento Public Library, the makeover is almost complete.

Thanks to quick action and hard work by Lavender Library board members and volunteers, the library now has beautiful coordinated shelving, seating, tables and other items for a spacious, redesigned layout.

The library's Vice-President Kimber Johnson learned that the Elk Grove Library was moving. Johnson inquired as to the use of the library equipment from their old location and received approval for the Lavender Library to be the beneficiary of the remaining equipment from Elk Grove Library's old location.

The Sacramento School District had completed scouting the offerings and had already removed what they needed. By the time Johnson received approval for the Lavender Library to enter and remove the remaining equipment, the old location's interior was scheduled to be gutted and demolished within 24 hours.

So, in the late afternoon on Dec. 9, 2008 Lavender Library volunteers were given the keys and the OK to start taking what they could. With only 18 hours before they keys needed to be returned, the clock was ticking.

"Fortunately, what the school district left behind was just what we needed," says Cook. "Everything we need for our redesign and more was there We couldn't believe our luck, but we had to work fast."

Cook called every available person and everyone jumped into action working feverishly until the wee hours of the night.

Lavender Library President Clint Vigen along with Cook, Johnson and volunteers Michael Hutchinson and Bradford McGlone didn't waste a minute. By 1:30 a.m. they had hauled away two truck loads of shelving, chairs, tables, and other items using their pickups belonging to Vigen and Cook.

The next morning, Cook returned with a 17-foot rental truck and hauled away the last items for their new home.

"We had no idea how much library equipment was available to us," Cook said.

Just one month later, the new shelving and equipment was installed at the Library on Saturday, Jan. 10, just in time for the Second Saturday Art Show. Working on the installation, which took advantage of a new design of the library space, were Clint Vigen, Treasurer Armando Parra, Kimber Johnson, Archivist Ron Grantz, Secretary Buzz Haughton, and volunteers David Ayotte, Paulina Vaughan, Evan Tucker, and Michael Cook. Thanks to the many people not listed here, but were involved over the past year helped out to make this possible.

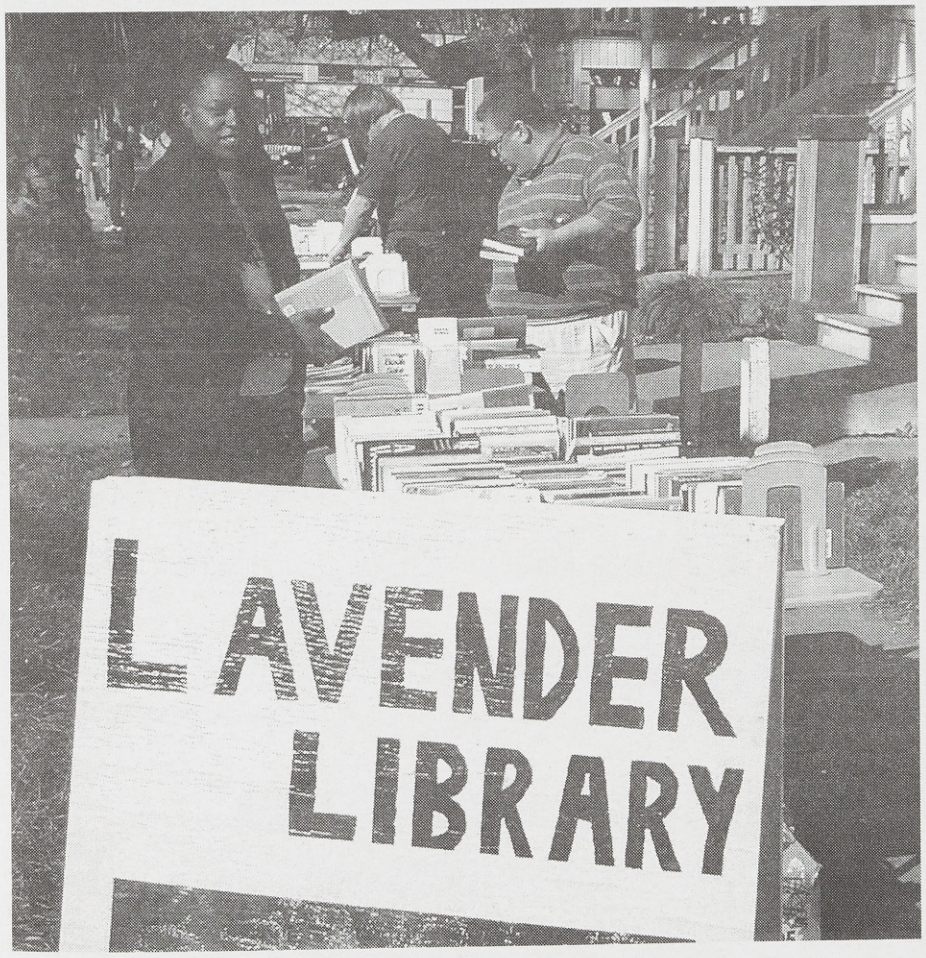
Undertaking a project like this was no small feat, and as volunteer Cook soon discovered, there where many obstacles to overcome. Cook met individually with the board members and volunteers to find out what the wants, needs, and future uses for the proposed redesigned space should include. Requests and requirements included; Sufficient wall / hanging space for Second Saturday Art Shows, ADA compliance of 36" minimum per isle, extra-large table space for Board of Directors Meetings, comfortable seating area with television for Tuesday LGBT Movie Nights, Meeting Areas to satisfy the needs of the Eclectic Trash Book Club, FTM Group Meetings, Trans Family Meetings, Crafting Group Meetings, Fabulous Femme Fridays Meetings and others, a separate area for the 18 and older materials, an open floor plan for speakers, lectures, and special events, include a comfortable couch in the plan, reuse and repurpose everything possible, and spend as little money as possible, where some of the requests and concerns for the redesigned space.

After many hours of picking brains and two redesign proposals the Board of Directors approved the plans and the rest is history.

"It was a big job, but looking back, I'm so glad we did this, I've learned so much about the Library, and how it all works, and I've made some new friends, too", said Cook.

The total cost of materials to the library was less than $100 and all requests and requirements were accomplished. Total cost of all LGBT volunteer and staff hours — priceless!

To volunteer and learn about the resources available at the Lavender Library Archives and Exchange call the Library at 916-492-0558,.



PHOTOS: LAVENDER LIBRARY BOOK SALE IN FRONT OF SACRAMENTO GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER, PHOTOS BY MIKE COOK; (BELOW) SACRAMENTO VALLEY BEARS PRESENT LAVENDER LIBRARY WITH A GENEROUS DONATION FROM YEAR LONG FUNDRAISING.

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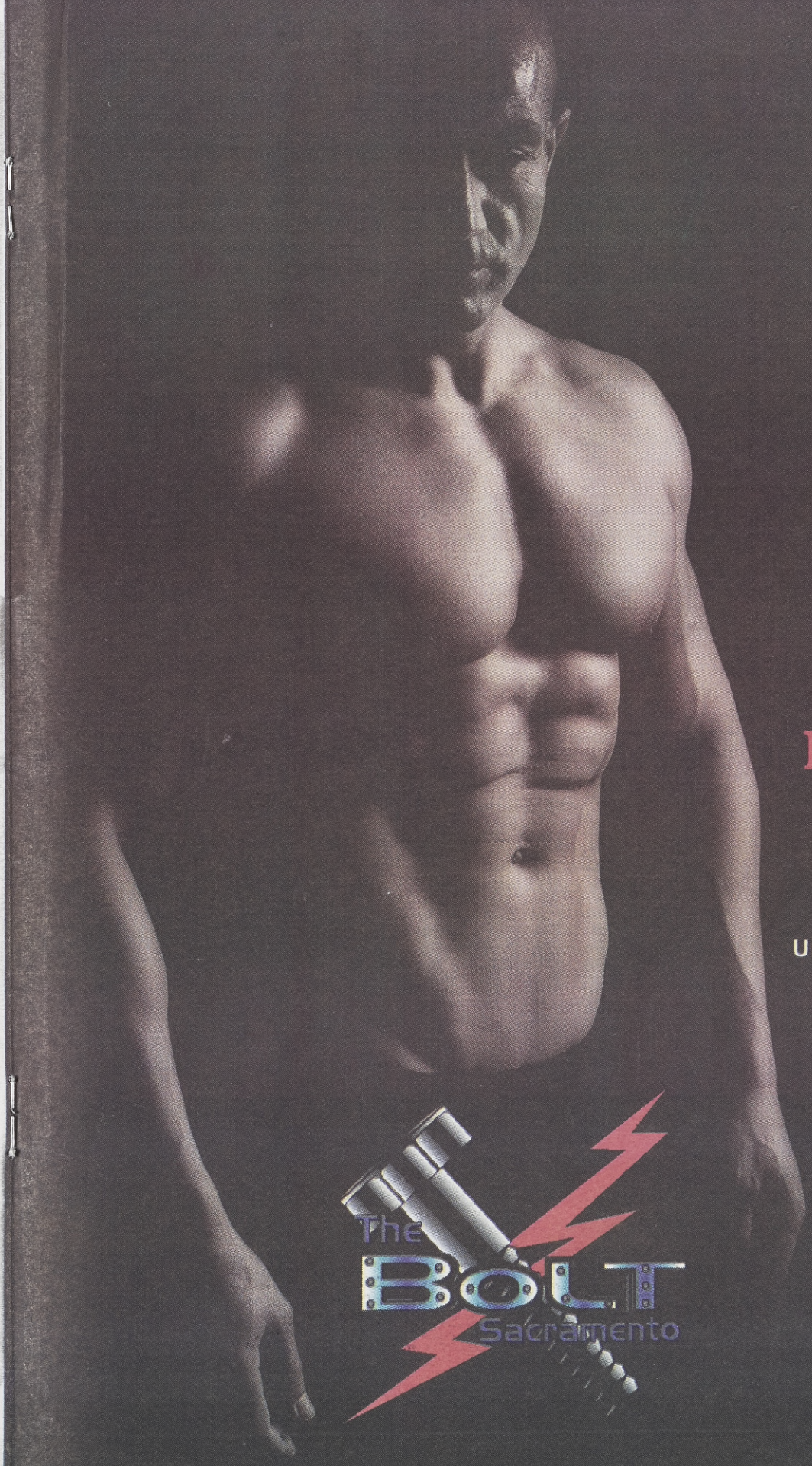

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Friday, March 6, 2009

The Sacramento Valley Leathercorps and The BOLT present GEAR NIGHT the first Friday of every month, 8pm to midnight! Gear up and join us! We're looking for folks with leather/latex pants, chaps, vests, shirts, skin gear, uniforms, jackets, boots, harnesses — get the idea? BOOTBLACKING by boy dave! No speeches, no fundraising! NO COVER!

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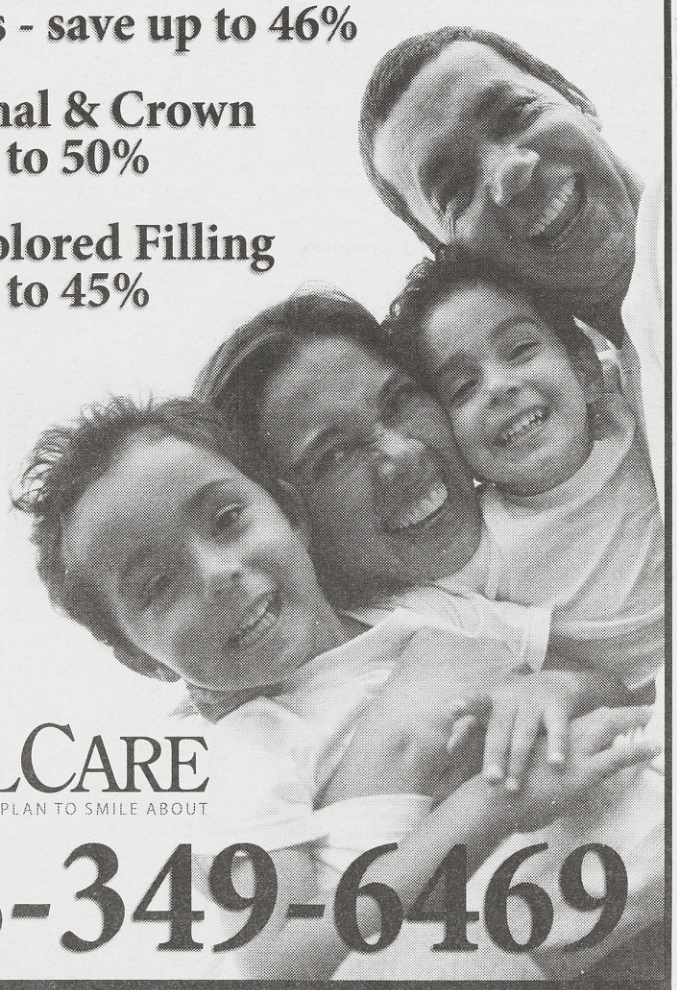

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mizz monique moore

The flu is going around right now and, of course, I was the one who had to catch it the worst. I hope everyone has been staying warm and wearing thick jackets — unlike me who likes to wear mini-skirts and tiny tops with a lot of jewelry. Big hoop earrings and tons of bracelets — like 20 on each wrist! Do remember that I'm a drag queen and everything I do has to be dramatic and over the top!

This past week I was asked to be a command performer at a charity event in Oroville at the Gold Casino. I was asked to do my Tina Turner routine. I had a fabulous two days there! The charity event was thrown by a nonprofit organization from Chico that is affiliated with the International Court System.

The International Court System is an entity on social community service organizations bound together in shared structure, policies and goals. When the Court system originated in San Francisco, in 1965, it was intended mainly for campy fun. From that beginning we derived our camp titles '"Emperor & Empress, Prince & Princess" and so forth — as well as our major annual gala function: Coronation. The Court system is international with courts throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Each court is, in essence, a chapter of the International Organization.

As representatives of our area's Court, our primary goals are: to further relationships with businesses and organizations within our local communities and to hold functions and fundraisers to benefit the communities to help those in the community who are in need of our assistance.

Each year our organization contributes tens of thousands of dollars to local community services as well as National and International causes, such as the Pink Ribbon Campaign. In addition to some of the other positive aspects of the Court system, perhaps the best is that our organization is open to everyone. Our membership is made up of every aspect of society — lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and heterosexual. A person's gender, lifestyle or mode of dress has no bearing on being a member of the court "family."

I am originally from San Jose where I was voted, by the community, to become Empress. I was able to use that position to donate my time and hard work to raise money for important charities for my reign of one year. I have been involved with the Court system for 16 years, and since moving to Sacramento two and a half years ago, I have become a part of CGNIE, Sacramento's Court.

I have held the CGNIE title "Miss Gay" and was also bestowed the lifetime title of Honorary Empress 34 from my drag daughter Deneka St. James Moore. This year's Empress 35 Precious Cargo and Emperor 35 Santos Rosales are the heads of state in charge of their Court and are doing a fine job raising money for the community.

For those who want to do something that will make you feel good about yourself then you should join a nonprofit organization such as the Imperial Court of Sacramento because it is always nice to lend a helping hand to the less fortunate.

I was overjoyed by the turnout for my "King & Queen of Hearts Contest" at Club 21. I wanted to thank Evangeline's, a fabulous gift and novelty store in Old Sacramento, for donating a item to give away for the contest. I called and talked to the owner, Debra, asking for a donation basket for the contest and she was more than happy to help.

I also wanted to thank The Trophy Center for donating a plaque and trophy for the contest. They are oh, so sweet and nice and always give me a great deal! If you ever need a trophy, plaque or any type of award items, I suggest you go to them!

Last night I went out to FACES to Club Octopussy and I had a fabulous time! Octopussy is run by Club Papi, but is created for women. There were so many women there from the Bay area it was crazy, but I passed out flyers all night long for the Dragalicious show which is every Sunday night at 9 p.m. at FACES Nightclub.

This is the last time I will say this — if you're going to be walking around Lavender Heights late at night by yourself, then I suggest you get a taser gun or some mace because you don't want to get mugged or worse. One woman was attacked last week in one of the far parking lots off 20th St. Walking around a dark parking lot on a foggy night by yourself *is not safe*! I am a man dressed in drag and I still won't do that unless I am looking for trouble or to get my throat sliced or my purse snatched — which I *never* am!

Before any of us goes wondering around dark alleys or parking lots — put a extra $5 in your pocket to pay for parking in a public and protected lot. It is truly sad that something like this had to happen and I hope that poor woman recovers quickly.

Well I am off to my next who knows what! "It's not the men in my life it's the life in my men"! That's a quote from Mae West!

This is Mizz Monique Moore — always keeping it real!

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Keeping It Real With Miss Monique Moore

PHOTOS: (LEFT) MONIQUE WITH JASMINE AT FACES BEING LESBIANS; (FAR LEFT) MONIQUE WITH HER OTHER HALF DARIO AND FRIEND TIFFANY AT THE MAIN FREEDOM RALLY IN FRONT OF THE CAPITOL; (MIDDLE LEFT) MONIQUE AND MGW SALES & MARKETING MANAGER NATHAN FELDMAN AT OCTOPUSSY; (LOWER LEFT) MONIQUE AND LYDIA GET THEIR FREAK ON AT FACES

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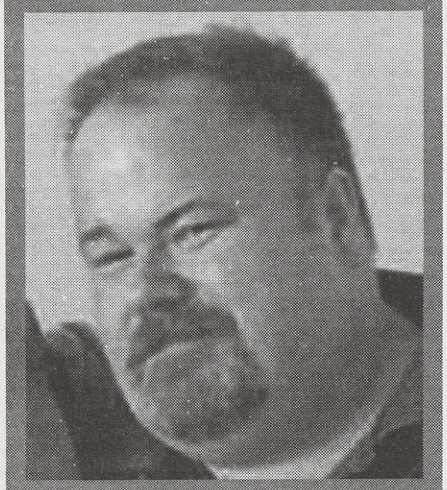

TOM SWANNER HAS BEEN A FILM REVIEWER FOR 10+ YEARS. HE LIVES IN SACRAMENTO WITH HIS 25-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND SEAN AND THEIR GROSSLY OBESE DAUGHTER (READ DOG) "HONEY".

BRIAN JUDD HAS BEEN A FILM REVIEWER FOR 6 YEARS. HE LIVES IN SMALL APARTMENT WHERE A PORTRAIT OF ANITA BRYANT HANGS OVER HIS BED SO HE CAN POINT AT HER AND LAUGH DAILY. HE IS ALONE AND BITTER AND LIKES IT THAT WAY.

Swanner & Judd

SWANNERANDJUDD.COM

HE'S JUST NOT THAT INTO YOU

Swanner: Last night we saw *He's Just Not That Into You*, the new chick flick about how women over analyze and men just don't really give a crap. It has an all star cast that includes Jennifer Aniston, Jennifer Connelly, Drew Barrymore, Justin Long, Ben Affeck and that's just a few of the people in the show. There are a lot more, but the important thing here is that it's a real ensemble cast. No one is really pushed into the "starring" role and I liked that. I really had a good time. This is one of those movies I can't wait to see again. I loved it.

Judd: It's your run of the mill estrogen-fest with the added benefit of being well written. The performances are decent, but it offers hope to the modern relationship and we know that's all but doomed. Hearing that you loved it is no surprise since you think love is all hearts and flowers and always end happily... just like your last relationship, right? Face it, movies like this are just like nicotine gum, sure you're happy while you're chewing it, but as soon as you spit it out you're smoking any butt in the ashtray you can actually light. Who in their right mind would date any of these characters?

Swanner: I actually found myself relating to a couple of the characters.

Judd: Of course you did. Let me guess, Jennifer Aniston's "I want to be married and in love forever" character and probably Jennifer Connelly's "I know I can't trust anyone" character ... tell me I'm right.

Swanner: A little bit I guess.

Judd: You are such a big girl, and you're fat. I knew when Ben Affeck said he didn't want to get married that you'd be all pouty about poor Jennifer Aniston. Maybe some people don't need a marriage license to actually have feelings for someone else. That's what pisses me off about this whole Prop 8 thing ^ but I don't want to turn this into a political rant. Just let me take the opportunity to reiterate, you are a big fat girl.

Swanner: Hopefully you are done dragging me through the streets and we can talk about the movie again.

Judd: If you insist.

Swanner: I thought the script and the editing were really good the way we bounced around from one character to the next and never got confused. I really hated Scarlett Johansson's character, but I guess there has to be a character like hers in a movie about relationships.

Judd: You mean a three dimensional character that's somewhat reality based?

Swanner: I mean a selfish whore that cares nothing about whether a man is happily married and doesn't want to cheat on his wife so I'll just shake my tits in his face till he cheats.

Judd: Ah, reality. Wake up Pollyanna, people are selfish and are out to ruin your happiness. It's called life and maybe you should open your eyes and see just how seedy people can be.

Swanner: This movie really seemed to touch off something in you. I haven't seen you this worked up since they changed the night Lawrence Welk came on. Maybe you found the film a little too close for comfort. I did feel your character was left out of the story. The sexless recluse that doesn't even look at porn anymore because it's too much like committing and just drinks alone every night till he passes out.

Judd: I still look at porn, Fatty. I turn it off as soon as I feel it's asking too much of me and I start getting claustrophobic. He's Just Not That Into You is a well-written, though too long, movie about idiots who still think Mr. Right is waiting to be found. I just worry for all those people who won't remember it's just a movie and think of it as some guide to finding their soul mate (I just threw up a little in my mouth)

Swanner: I loved that it gives hope to the modern relationship and says that maybe, just maybe, people can be in love forever.

Judd: You make me sick.

Swanner: 3 1/2 Stars
Judd: 2 1/2 Stars

PUSH

Swanner: Last night Brian and I saw *Push*. Push is the new Chris Evans film about a group of people who are being chased by the government because they were born with psychic powers. It's almost a less fabulous X-men, imagine a lot less of everything. The reason I sound veg is because the movie was so disjointed I'm not really sure what was happening half the time. Was this easier for you to digest?

Judd: The movie sucked. But of course it's a February release with Chris Evans and Dakota Fanning — if the studios had confidence in the film they would have released it at another time. Anyway, the movie sets itself up to be some epic story of struggle reaching back to WW II. What it is is a flimsy, over-stylized, one dimensional, shallow story of good versus bad and other bad with a dash of romance thrown in to keep it interesting.

Swanner: I was hoping it wasn't just me that was struggling with it. I do want to say that I thought the cast was really good. So I don't blame them for this mess. It seems like they are trying to start some movie version of the TV series *Heroes*. Where no one knows what's happening (cast or audience) and we're held hostage till they inform us there will be a sequel ... like two more hours will help us make sense of all of this. I'd say this felt a lot like last years *Jumpers* but *Jumpers* at least had an obvious plot but that's not to say it's better. You're right about one thing, if you had a good Chris Evans/Dakota Fanning movie you certainly wouldn't be releasing it in February

Judd: The plot was so full of holes, it really didn't matter what made sense and what didn't. All that matters is that good guys and the two separate bad guys are after the same thing and it's up to the good guys to use their powers to trick the bad guys into killing each other — Oh, and this legend was foretold in its entirety 20 years beforehand, but the future is always changing, obviously not. Clear as mud? That's the movie in a nutshell.

Swanner: I had no idea what was happening most of the time. I did like the Asian family a lot. The lollipop girl had way cool hair and her brothers screamed a lot. After a while I just started thinking about how cute Chris Evans is and how I wished I was watching a different Chris Evans' movie ... one where he was wearing less. I kind of really hated this movie and I prey to God they never make a sequel.

Judd: Chris was awfully covered up throughout the whole film, and I'm not the kind that always needs a little skin in the movie — unlike Tom — but I was hoping there would be at least one shirtless scene. Come on, it's Chris Evans! All I required was just a brief glimpse of his hot sexy fuzzy furriness, and I got nothing. I would have given the movie an extra star! You hear that studios? You missed out on an extra star! An extra staaaaaarrrr!

Swanner: 1 Star
Judd: 1 Star

Pure cinema excitement.

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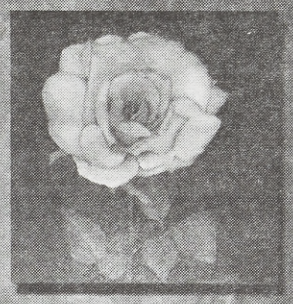

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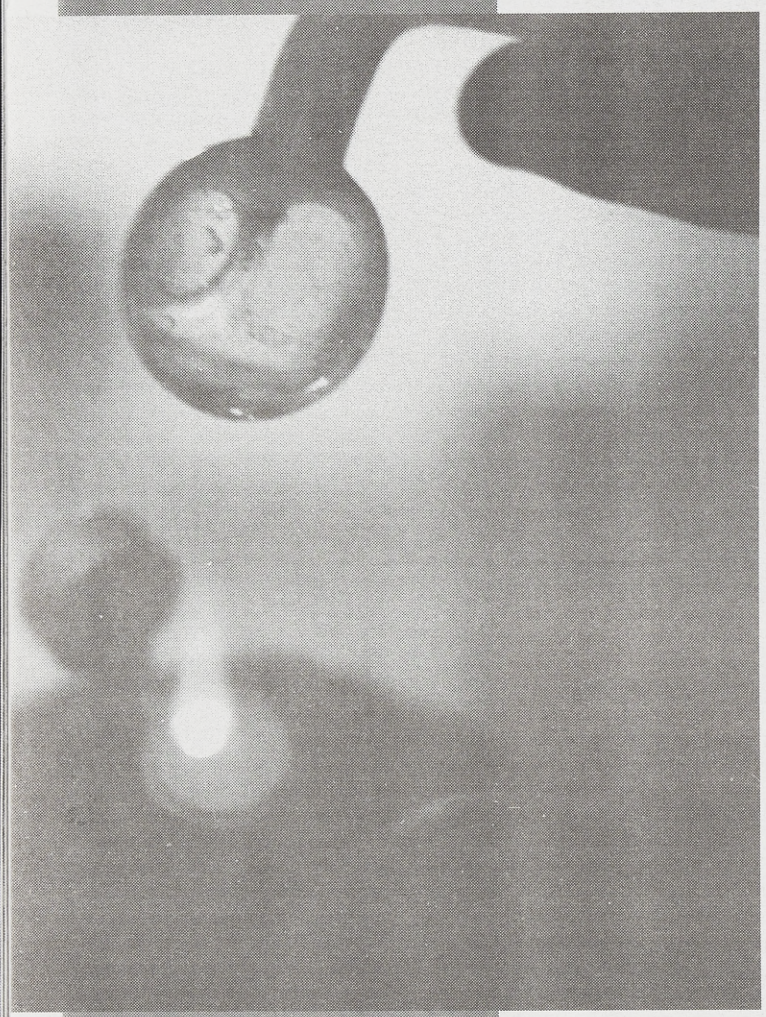


Strategies For Change

STRATEGIES4CHANGE.ORG

Johnny Depp, Nick Nolte, Fergie, Ben Afflect — it seems rehab has found its own star power and fashion following. Unfortunately, drug misuse and addiction knows no boundaries and the Sacramento LGBT and Hollywood communities have long had history with addiction and its related health issues.

It doesn't matter if you are gay, straight, employed, a parent, religious, rich, poor, a movie star or just plain average. Addiction is an equal opportunity oppressor. Moreover, it is usually a slow process in realizing you or someone you love has a drug problem. Most people don't just wake up one morning and say, "I have a drug problem". Substance abusing behaviors tend to build up over years, and in that time drug use can compromises ones health, challenge relationships, is potentially very dangerous and in some cases can be life threatening.

Drug abuse is not a matter of moral weakness or faulty willpower. Substance abuse involves the repeated and excessive use of chemical substances to achieve a certain effect. It is a vicious cycle that actually causes changes in the brain, leading to stronger and stronger impulses to use. Addiction is a powerful force that is often a response to the inability to self- soothe or get relief from untreated mental or physical pain. Without the resilience or coping ability and support to handle stress, loneliness, depression, and other challenging emotions, drugs can be a tempting option.

There are uppers, downers and all-arounders, but what most drugs have in common, is overstimulation of the pleasure center of the brain. With time, the brain's chemistry is actually altered to the point where NOT having the drug becomes extremely uncomfortable and even painful. This compelling urge to use becomes more and more powerful, disrupting work, relationships, health, judgment, and in some cases the ability to think rationally.

However, just because you enjoy using does not mean you have a problem: many people can drink without developing an addiction problem. Others can use meth one time and get hooked. So how do your know if you are looking at a problem? One of the key questions to ask is: are you sacrificing too much in order to continue the use?

Emotional congestion, quick anger, moodiness and irritability tend to be early indicators of a possible problem. Specific drug-use produces different signs: methamphetamine for example tends to reduce sexual inhabitations. People who use it tend to act out more sexually—and not always safely. Students report that the use of meth helps when cramming for tests, staying alert and competitive.

However, as with Hollywood, its not so pretty once the glamour dies down. Overtime, continued use often translates into motor disturbances (fidgeting), agitation, hypersensitivity and paranoia. Alcohol on the other hand, has its own set of signs: slurring and imbalance impact most of us after a few too many drinks. Long-term overuse can results in motor disturbances and poor response times, poor work habits, malaise, and a general decrease in cognitive functioning.

Treatments and attitudes toward drug addiction vary widely. Some treatment professionals view addiction as a disease, sighting abstinence as the only measure of success. Others take a different approach.

Strategies for Change provides fully integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment for individuals and families in the Sacramento area. Strategies for Change treatment philosophy is based on Choice Theory, which supports each person in identifying his or her strengths, values and emotional development so as to create a life that is purposeful and meaningful. People come to us, as whole people with a whole scope of issues. We work with that individual to develop a comprehensive, cohesive, workable treatment plan.

A team of educated counselors and therapists support each person in identifying his or her strengths and increase skill and emotional development. Part of the education component within treatment helps people understand how addiction has negatively impacted their lives, and to help them understand how over time their substance abuse has became a way they learned to address unmet needs. In doing so we are able to empower people to explore alternative strategies to get their needs met in healthier clean and sober way. Treatment also includes coping skills, problems solving, effective communication, self soothing, and strategies to implement in creating a world going forward that is purposeful and meaningful.

This core philosophy seems to resonate with most people. Adults and youth attending outpatient treatment at Strategies for Change tend to realize successful completion rates double that of State and County averages. Every year, almost 2,000 people select Strategies for Change for their primary path to recovery. In 2008 the organization was recognized as the Outstanding Nonprofit of the Year.

Hollywood's glamorous image of all-night partying is changing. Every day we see images of stars remorseful of bad behavior due to drugs and alcohol. The tides are turning and stars are distancing themselves from drug use; no longer embarrassed by attending residential or outpatient rehab.

Rising to the height of stardom is a classic American dream, yet drugs and alcohol have affected many who have pursued that dream. Pressures can feel overwhelming, both to quit and to continue to use. Life pressures are no different for the rest of us. And yet, support and treatment is possible for everyone.

The bottom line is that drug treatment only works once an individual is ready to acknowledge that drug use is negatively impacting their life and expresses a desire to want to change. Family and friends can play critical roles in motivating individuals with drug problems to enter and stay in treatment.

Sacramento offers solutions in terms of both residential and outpatient treatment. Cost and program intensity ranges depending on length and intensity of need. The bottom line is that once you or some one you love decides that drugs and alcohol are getting in the way of living a full life, help is readily available. You don't have to have Hollywood star status to get into the rehab craze and get help now.

Resource: Strategies for Change provides fully integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment for individuals and families in the Sacramento area. The non-profit organization offers expertise in addiction/ trauma, parenting coaching, mental health counseling and medication management. Please visit the Strategies for Change website to review a full list of services and descriptions: strategies4change.org or 916-473-5764.

Signs of methamphetamine misuse

- Agitation
- Hypervigilence and sensitivity
- No eye contact
- Bloodshot eyes
- Severe mood swings
- Insomnia
- Loss of appetite
- Paranoid defensiveness
- Low frustration tolerance
- Disheveled, poor hygiene
- Signs of sleep deviation
- Delusions of grandeur leading to aggressive behavior

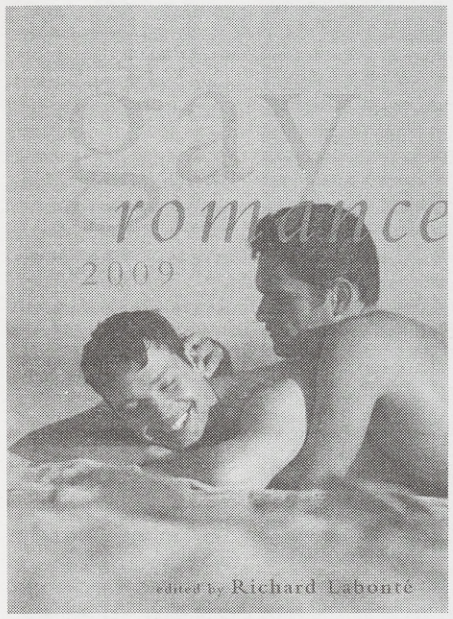
The signs of meth addiction take a toll on the user both physically and emotionally. It works directly on the brain and spinal cord by interfering with normal neurotransmission.

Signs of Alcohol misuse

- Depressed mood
- Nervousness
- Insomnia physical complications of alcohol use (e.g. ulcer, gastritis, liver disease, and hypertension)
- Accidents or injuries due to alcohol use
- Poor memory or concentration
- Evidence of self-neglect (e.g. poor hygiene)
- Failed treatment for depression.
- Legal and social problems due to alcohol use (e.g. marital problems, domestic violence, Child abuse or neglect, missed work)

Signs of Opiod misuse

- Sedation, sleepiness, or lethargy
- Avoidance and withdrawal from usual activities
- Multiple visits to multiple doctors to increase amounts of prescription drugs available for abuse
- Confusion
- Weight loss

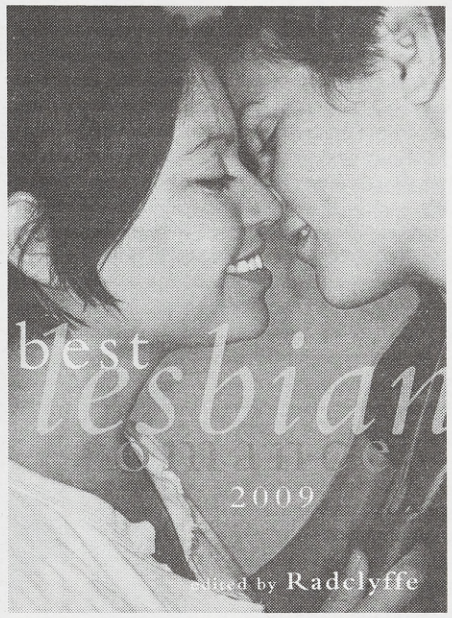


BEST GAY ROMANCE 2009
EDITED BY RICHARD LABONTE
CLEIS PRESS • CLEISPRESS.COM
ISBN 978-1-57344-336-4
$14.95

Men at Their Most Passionate. Best Gay Romance 2009 is short fiction at its finest on the subject of love—first love, true love, and love everlasting (with makeup sex, wake-up sex, and everything in between).

The romantic possibilities range from a surprising encounter between two blue-collar buddies to a brief airport rendezvous that become something more, and a reminder to us all that it is never too late for love. A self-confessed true romantic, Richard Labonté has gathered a sensational collection of stories about finding love at home, at work, at any age, and often, in the most unexpected places.

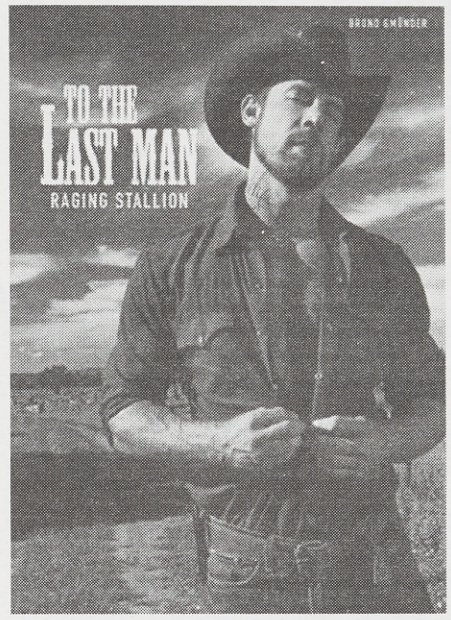
Richard Labonte lives some of the time in a wee Perth, Ontario apartment, and some of the time in a sprawling 10-bedroom farmhouse on 200 acres of land near Calabogie, Ontario. From 1979 to 2000, he helped found and then managed A Different Light Bookstores in New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. He has edited the Best Gay Erotica series since 1996; reviews 100 books a year for Q Syndicate, which distributes his fortnightly column "Book Marks"; with Lawrence Schimel has edited The Future is Queer and First Person Queer, winner of the 2007 Lambda Literary Anthology Award; writes the newsletter Books to Watch Out For/Gay Men's Edition; and writes book reviews for Publishers Weekly. Husband Asa and canines Percy and Zak are his constant companions.



BEST LESBIAN ROMANCE 2009
EDITED BY RADCLYFFE
CLEIS PRESS • CLEISPRESS.COM
ISBN 978-1-57344-333-3
$14.95

Red Hot Romance! Scale the heights of emotion and the depths of desire with this collection of the very best lesbian romance writing of the year. Essential reading for anyone who cherishes the highly imaginative, the deeply sensual, and the very loving, this anthology is as remarkable for its great writing as it is for its exuberant sexiness. In "Femme Fatale," Kathie Bergquist tells the story of a first date gone terribly wrong until it heads in exactly the right, delicious direction. For readers who have almost given up on ever falling in love, KI Thompson's "The Usual" illustrates that you never know when you might meet "the one." Other stories offer chance encounters, such as Olivia Presley's tempting tale, "The Traveler" and Ariel Graham's spooky sexy "A Ghost of a Chance." If variety is the spice of life, then this is the spiciest set of lesbian romance stories to date!

Radclyffe is a retired surgeon and author-publisher with over thirty lesbian novels and anthologies in print. Five of her works have been Lambda Literary finalists including the Lambda Literary winners Erotic Interludes 2: Stolen Moments ed. with Stacia Seaman and Distant Shores, Silent Thunder. She is the recipient of the 2003 and 2004 Alice B. Readers' award for her body of work, is a member of the Publishing Triangle, the IBPA, and the Romance Writers of America, and is also the president of Bold Strokes Books, an independent LGBTQ publishing company.



RAGING STALLION: TO THE LAST MAN
BRUNO GMUENDER
BRUNOGMUENDER.COM
978-3-86787-021-4
$53.99

To the last man is a Cowboy romance of the finest. The photography is fascinatingly clear, the conscious decision against a studio grants an irresistible charm, which has never been seen in adult photography before. The viewer feels as if he is sitting with these Cowboys at the campfire, the idyll is electrifying. The men, burly, rough and heavy hung, exhibit a yearning and the need for tenderness.

This photo book is the results of a two-week photo shoot for a porn flick with the same title—an erotic western elaborate and ambitious as hardly any adult production has been before. It was shot in the remoteness of the Arizona Mountains; the models were flown in from many different countries.

The US-American company Raging Stallion Studios was founded in 1990 in San Francisco by Chris Ward and J. D. Slater. Meanwhile it has also become extremely successful all over Europe.

Photographer Kent Taylor, which was there from the start, has shaped the visual aesthetic of the company with his photography; his colleague Geof Teague (part of the team for six years now), adds to the style thru his experience in the fashion world.

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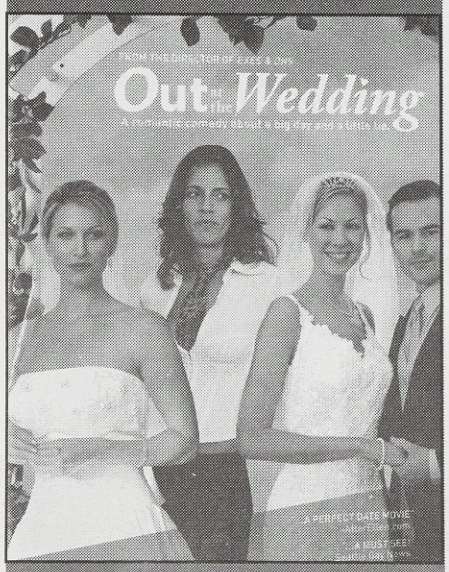
Out At The Wedding



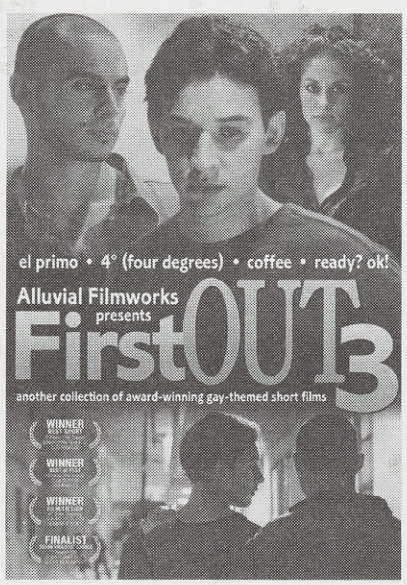
Alex's little white lies are spinning out of control. After telling her new fiancé that her family is dead, she travels from NYC to South Carolina to serve as her sister Jeannie's bridesmaid. A rumor spreads at the wedding that Alex is gay, and when her family is surprisingly supportive, Alex decides to play along believing it's easier than telling the truth about her engagement to a Jewish African American man. But when Jeannie comes to visit Alex in New York and Alex has to prove that she's a lesbian, things take an unexpected turn as both sisters discover shocking things about each other, and perhaps about themselves.

LOGO, the nation's leading 24/7 channel and source of entertainment for the LGBT audience, and Paramount Home Entertainment are set to release the clever and hilarious romantic romp Out at the Wedding on DVD on February 17, 2009, just two days after the film makes its broadcast premiere on LOGO on February 15, 2009. From Lee Friedlander, director of the acclaimed Sapphic LOGO series "Exes and Ohs" and the feature film "Girl Play" comes this uproarious romantic comedy … with some lesbian tendencies.

Out At The Wedding explores the sometimes comical way in which we come out to the people we love, whether as gay or straight. The film stars Andrea Marcellus ("The Shield"), Desi Lydic (Not Another Teen Movie), Charlie Schlatter ("Diagnosis Murder"), Mike Farrell ("Providence") and Mink Stole (Hairspray, Serial Mom). Out at the Wedding premieres on LOGO on Sunday, February 15, 2009. It will be available on DVD on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 on LOGOonline.com and retailers nationwide.

Out at the Wedding is Produced by Gina G. Goff and Laura A. Kellam of Goff-Kellam Productions.

FIRST OUT 3



Alluvial Filmworks' best-selling annual gay short film DVD series continues with its third installment, FirstOUT 3. With a gripping mystery, a coming of age story, a sexy lighthearted comedy and a tale of innocent youth, FirstOUT 3 continues its tradition of providing a variety of content reflecting stories that the gay community can relate to.

El Primo (The Cousin): Mark, a sheltered, sensitive teenager reunites with Louis, his tough, older cousin who lives on the rough side of Laredo, Texas. At first, Mark wants only to impress his cousin, but Luis quickly sees through his façade. Luis decides to break him out of his shell by taking him for a night out on the bad side of town. Mark reluctantly goes along for the ride, but soon loosens up and the two bond like they did when they were boys. But before the night is over, Mark's sheltered world is cracked wide open, and he learns a hard lesson about what it means to be a man. Winner: Best Short: Downtown Film Fest, Los Angeles; Winner: Best of Fest: 2008 Outfest, Los Angeles

Ready? OK!: 11-year old Tommy discovers that fitting in isn't as easy as it seems. He doesn't want to play baseball or basketball. Instead, he's more interested in doing a triple salchow on ice-skates than making a free throw. Meanwhile, he's just discovered his latest passion – cheerleading. Tommy decides to test his artistic passions in public and auditions for the cheerleading squad. Will Tommy make the squad? Will he be laughed out of school? This short film reaches a hilarious conclusion and reminds us of what it is to be true to yourself no matter what the world thinks of you. Finalist: 2008 Planet Out's Scion Viewer's Choice Short Film Awards.

4° (Four Degrees): The police suspect Philip Long of multiple murders. Murders he knows nothing about. But the people Philip loves most are dead, and his secrets could be to blame. Lieutenant Wilma Kittle and Detective Mike Young uncover Philip Long's hidden life and lay bare the brutal crimes he's accused of; but they wrestle with one another and the facts to decide what is true. Truth itself and the standards of interrogation become suspect in this gritty, realistic film inspired by actual events. Are you guilty? It's a question of degrees: 4° (Four Degrees) Winner: Institute for Humane Studies Film/ Fiction Award

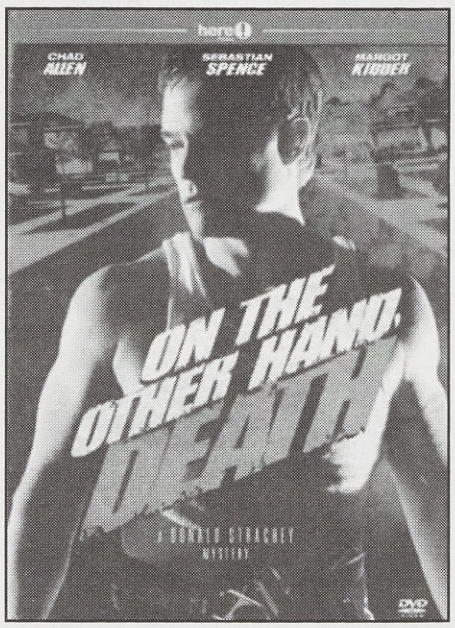
Coffee: When Polly, John, and Jane meet for coffee, as usual the talk turns to guys, and more specifically Polly's ex-boyfriend Chris. It turns out that Polly has a delicious bit of gossip about Chris and why they broke up. Or is it just a rumor? John and Jane hatch a plan to find out for themselves. Why does Chris' friend Alex hate Polly so much? Is Jim just stoned again? And is Jane ready for a new guy? Either way, they're all about to find out that the coffee's not the only thing that's hot, hot, hot!

ON THE OTHER HAND, DEATH: A DONALD STRACHEY MYSTERY

The third installment in the franchise once again stars Chad Allen as the gay private investigator and co-stars screen legend Margot Kidder (Superman). Directed by Emmy® award nominated Ron Oliver ("Degrassi: The Next Generation," "Queer as Folk") On the Other Hand, Death delves into gay hate crimes and the difficulties faced by the LGBT community.

On the Other Hand, Death begins with Dorothy (Kidder) and Edith (Gabrielle Rose) sleeping in each other's arms on the second floor of their long-time farmhouse. Downstairs, a shadowy figure breaks through the glass door. When Edith goes to investigate the noise, she discovers graffiti sprawled across the walls. The hateful message reads "DYKES GO HOME."

After speaking with their neighbors, Donald discovers that Dorothy and Edith rejected a developer's over-priced bid for their property. Everyone else in the neighborhood wanted desperately to sell their homes, and Edith would have sold as well, but Dorothy wanted to keep her home of nearly forty years rather than make money for corporate profit. Meanwhile, things get complicated when Donald's partner Tim gets a surprise visit from his sexy and charming ex-boyfriend Andrew, who happens to be a good friend of Dorothy. Andrew makes a pass at Donald and challenges Donald's loyalty to Tim. Andrew's presence puts Donald and Tim's commitment to the test.



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Gavin Castleton

CASTLETON TALKS ABOUT HIS NEW POPERA "HOME," HIS MORMON UPBRINGING, AND HIS THOUGHTS ON PROP 8

Gavin Castleton is set to release the digital version of his epic production, HOME on Friday the 13th of February on Five One Records. The physical version will be available in April 7.

HOME carries you on a focused journey of love (and the footprint it leaves when it steps on your face) through the eyes of a man, a woman, two ladybugs, and an army of corpses. Not only is the concept left-of-center, the album itself is unique in its function. Freshly arisen from the devastation of a six-year relationship, Castleton set out to design an album that would both document his healing process and deliver comfort to listeners to the heartbroken. In what close friends described as "a monumental error in judgment," Castleton enlisted the help of his departing lover to help write the story. The process became so heart-wrenching that Castleton abandoned the house they had shared, and for five months (until his final mastering date), he and his faithful dog slept on couches, floors, and car seats, recording musicians all over New England. The result is HOME, a 14-song narrative that follows his relationship from the coffee-shop flirtation beginning to the mauled-by-zombies-while-his-girlfriend-leaves-in-a-helicopter-with-some-army-dude end.

"For the last few years I've been approaching my songs as parts of a bigger composition. While the rest of the world is taking things in smaller and smaller doses, I find myself making bigger and bigger pieces. I don't know if I'm responding to the shrinking average attention span, or running from it," says Castleton.

Home is a new soundscape of paramount proportions, even for Castleton, who has built his 14-year career on innovation (his last album was a prog-hiphop narrative recounting his life backwards, from his suicide in 2054 to present day). Song by song the line between documentary and fantasy becomes blurred, as you find yourself careening through a dynamic plot that unfolds like a classic horror movie. The album is sequenced in two halves: the first depicts Castleton and his young lover falling deeply in love, and the second, in which said lovers are stalked incessantly by a growing population of flesh-eating zombies, is the story of falling out of love.

What does love sound like to Castleton? Tracks like "Coffeelocks" and "Warpaint" suggest Philip Glass, Brian Wilson, Postal Service, and Pink Floyd. When flirtation gives way to passion, songs like "Sugar on the Sheets" and "Stampete" summon the sounds of D'Angelo, Prince, and Portishead as Castleton is joined by the versatile voice of Lauren Coleman.

But when "The Onslaught" begins, relationship decay is positively palpable with Castleton flipping the soundtrack into something from the Goblin/King Crimson school of prog. Holed up in an abandoned grocery store surrounded by zombies, the relationship begins to devour itself. The apocalyptic shades of Massive Attack, Brian Eno, and Godspeed You Black Emporer tint tracks like "The Wall Starts to Give" and "Unparallel Rabbits." Locked in a storage closet with his lover safe in the arms of an "army dude," Castleton delivers an Oscar-worthy performance in his suicide march, "Oregon." To fully appreciate why he is then miraculously resurrected by a pair of singing ladybugs(!), you would want to take a look at his blog (gavincastleton.blogspot.com), where Castleton has been weaving additional narratives around and through the album (and his other recent works) since he began the production two years ago. The tiny spirit guides beg him to try a happier ending for the album, and he does, in the lush and linear next-to-last track, "The Human Torch."

But things are never so picture perfect warns Castleton in the final song "Credits," in which his patented self-awareness is transcended even further, breaking the fourth wall a la Charlie Kaufman and referring to the album itself, "Is this me holding on or letting go?"

Despite the unconventionally wide scope of Home, Castleton insists it is a very accurate depiction of a rough breakup: "When you fall in love, is it not a little bit like a musical? When your heart breaks, is it not a little bit like a horror movie?"

Here, Castleton talks about the agonizing but rewarding process of creating HOME, his Mormon upbringing, and his (and his family's) thoughts on Proposition 8.

Q: This album is a song cycle about your last romantic relationship. There is some joy on here, but many of the songs contain images of despair, bitterness and horror. How true-to-life are the emotions that you're conveying?

Gavin Castleton: The emotions conveyed on the record are only a small fraction of the colors one experiences in a serious breakup. I did my best to make it concise. Home is inspired by a very real relationship, one that lasted six years. I began writing Home when we broke up, and both processes took two years to complete.

Q: What caused the relationship to end?

GC: We weren't growing within the relationship, so we made a mature decision to grow outside of it. Unfortunately, our execution of said breakup was not so mature. We wanted to do it lovingly, but this resulted in a very trite two-year emotional limbo that only prolonged the misery. I asked her to write the lyrics for her protagonist in order to document the process fairly and in hopes that creative collaboration would keep us close. Despite the pleasing results, it was a foolish exploit.

Q: She was writing lyrics that expressed how she felt about the relationship?

GC: Ideally. We ended up collaborating on three of the earlier songs on the record, and half a song from the second half. When it was no longer emotionally feasible, I finished the remaining duets alone, which was painfully educational, given that I was writing from her perspective with a critical eye towards my behavior in our relationship.

Q: I get the sense, though, from the songs, that you feel as if you were the one that was left.

GC: My role in the breakup shifted almost hourly for a long time. Ultimately, who did what to whom is irrelevant. What matters is whether or not I emerged from it a better person. And I did.

Q: On the record, when the relationship turns bad, zombies appear. Can you tell me what you're trying to convey with that metaphor?

GC: I feel that when a relationship is love-thick and long-lasting, it's less likely to be killed by something sudden or obvious – such as infidelity or violence or geographical distance. More often, it'll fall victim to the cancerous deterioration of untreated, deep-seated issues (oftentimes dating back to the beginning of the relationship). George Romero billed the slow zombie motif as a sociological horror. Unlike other horror movies in the late 60's and early 70's, his films were about the slow, impending doom of these compounding threats, and their effects on the survivors' interactions. For this reason, zombies were the perfect metaphor for what happened to us.
Plus, I just really like zombies.

Q: Has she heard the record?

GC: Doesn't matter. It's not for her.

Q: How are you doing now?

GC: I'm doing very well. I recently moved from Rhode Island to Portland, Oregon, and I know it was the right thing to do. This town is very open-minded and welcoming. Emotionally, I feel healed and equipped to be a better partner for someone. My heart is wide awake and chattering loudly. I'm writing a lot of bite-size pieces — nothing wildly ambitious right now — and enjoying new collaborations.

Q: Let's talk about your career. You've released a lot of music so far.

GC: I've released seven solo records (independently) since 2004. Aside from those, I released seven records with my band Gruvis Malt, two with my band Ebu Gogo, and a handful of other collaborations since 1996.

Q: You're very prolific. Is making music what you always wanted to do?

GC: Well, I had several other ambitions. At one point in my single digit years, I was sure I wanted to go into a fictional field I'd dubbed "animal communication specialist." But music was always in there somewhere. When we were young, we didn't have a choice—mom insisted that we learn the piano as a potential source of income. I've always had an affinity for melody—I began writing

at five years old and never really stopped. Until I was 25, music was a monologue for me, a way to export emotions that I wasn't comfortable expressing verbally. But since the age of 25, it's become more of a dialogue with the listener… I'm more interested in communicating effectively, rather than just emoting.

Q: Well, the music on Home is very emotive. It's as if each song is produced and arranged to convey a different feeling.

GC: Love and loss are quite possibly the most dynamic things we humans can experience. I did my best to convey that on the record. In all my solo work, I strive to make each element of the composition support the song's "thesis" (which should, in turn, support the album's theme). So, for example, the first song, "Bugguts," is about the frequent panic attacks I experienced throughout the breakup. We wanted to connote the concept of breathing throughout the song. We used breathing loops as percussive elements. Wind-driven instruments like flute and French horn are featured prominently. And atmospheric elements like strings and organ were mixed with exaggerated volume swells. I even did the vocals while jogging in place. You get the point.

Q: The song "Oregon" touches upon

suicide. Did you get to the point where that was on your mind?

GC: Of course — I went to the bottom and back. Daily. And eventually, monthly. I don't think suicidal ideation is necessarily an unhealthy thing, as some would suggest. When I felt entirely powerless, taking control of my own mortality was an empowering conceit. Brave? Not really. Wise? Definitely not. But empowering.

Q: "The Human Torch," the song after "Oregon," seems to imply that the girl comes back.

GC: Well, "Oregon" is the dark ending, and "Human Torch" is the ridiculously happy ending — a total Disney CGI finale about the reuniting of her and me. It was the hardest song to record, because it was so blatantly delusional. Those were just two scenarios out of hundreds that someone dealing with heartbreak might fantasize about, and the final song, "Credits," discusses the futility of doing so.

Q: I saw the video online of you singing Prince's "Nothing Compares to U." How did that come about?

GC: In December of 2007, a friend sent me a video of the Sinead O'Connor version, which I hadn't seen since the mid 90's. I was struck by the bravery and rawness of the piece, as well as its simple and effective composition. So, I knew at some point I wanted to try my hand at it. The video is my interpretation of it, using my looping approach and a guest cellist, Erin Hunt.

Q: Would you like to be a big pop star someday?

GC: [Laughs] No, not particularly. I'm happy to have people buy my records, but if I have to become the very definition of narcissism, contributing to our youth's obsession with aesthetics and materialism in the process, then I'd prefer to remain obscure. I don't have to be a star to do what I do. I'm successfully communicating with thoughtful people, and that's where my interest lies.

Q: On a more superficial note, I know some gay guys who really think you're hot. It's not just about the looks—it's the emotional sensitivity that they find attractive. Have you built up any kind of gay fan base over the years?

GC: This question makes me very sad. Being objectified undermines the countless years (well, no --- fifteen years) I've dedicated to making thoughtful music. Any attention given to me as a person, especially something so irrelevant as my appearance, is shifting the focus from my work, which can impact people deeper and longer than any physical attribute. In regards to building a gay fan base, I find that people respond positively to honesty and introspection, regardless of their sexual orientation.

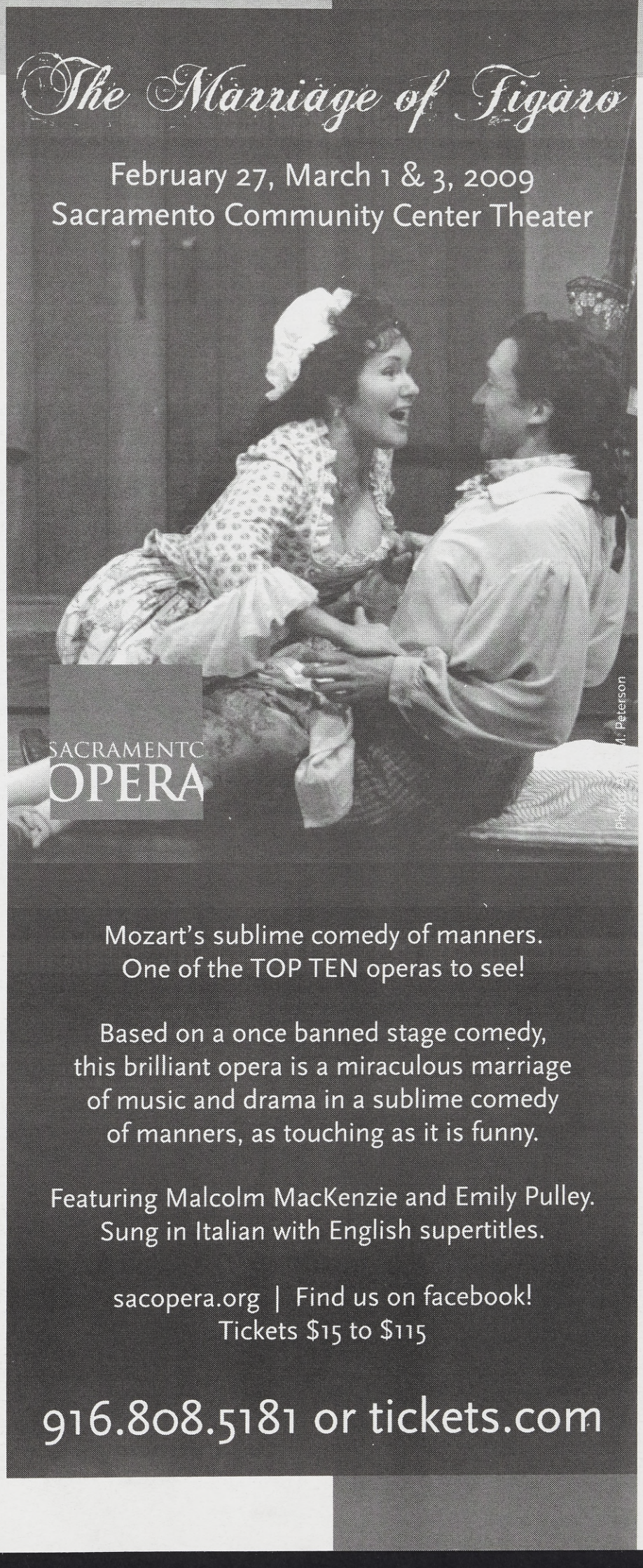
Q: I know that you were raised a Mormon. Do you have any thoughts about what's happened recently with the Mormon campaign and their support of Proposition 8 in California?

GC: Yeah, I did post something on my blog [gavincastleton.blogspot.com] about it. Both sides of my family have a large Mormon contingent, and we all felt strongly about our various perspectives. The heated discussions (via email) blew our family communication wide open, which was a beautiful thing. I can't really claim that I have mass groups of friends in California that will be largely affected by Prop 8, but I feel very strongly that this exclusionary legislation is an embarrassment to our country and our prospective faiths. The church's propaganda regarding Prop 8 is too Un-Christian for me to discuss calmly.

Q: Do you still consider yourself a Mormon?

GC: No. There are several elements of the Mormon church that I hold in high regard: love of family, strong community, and humanitarian aid, to name a few. But in my opinion, there is no way to subscribe to a monotheistic religion without inferring something negative about other religions. I can't condone that. I am not a religious person, and I find no solace from group worship. I would define spirituality as the communication of one's most inner voice with our universe's most outer voice. And by that definition, I explore my spirituality best through music. Ultimately, I hope to make music that is universally applicable, even if not always understood. This album is meant as comfort for the heartsick, no matter what gender or orientation made you sick.

For more information on Gavin Castleton please visit gavincastleton.com.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Faith In What We Don't See Is The Key

ACHURCHFORALL.ORG.

I don't know about you but this whole recession thing is starting to wear me down. Every day I'm hearing of lay offs, comforting friends, victims of a messed up economy. I'm even starting to get scared myself despite the assurance that my job is secure. I need to "recession proof" my mind!

I'm not interested in starting over. I've worked on me too long to give up the gains I've made, financial security, positive self esteem, self confidence, love for myself and my community. But everything around me appears to be changing, or at risk of change. The gains I've made feel as if they're eroding. I need to maintain the momentum, I need to keep going.

The other day while searching for inspiration, I came across this passage in the Message Bible ... Faith In What We Don't See Is The Key.

Hebrews 11 - The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd. By faith, we see the world called into existence by God's word, what we see created by what we don't see.

Faith is the necessary ingredient that pushes us into our moment of healing, of victory, our moment of greatness. Faith is a psychological awareness that there is an unfolding force for good out there working on our behalf; waiting to unfold the desires of our hearts, constantly working in every dimension. Faith is an innate force that causes us to seek survival, to fight back, to look for evidence of a brighter day.

Sharon Salzberg, the author of "Faith: Trusting Your Own Deepest Experience", describes faith as seeking strength in our inner connection to what is not broken. She says we look for affirmation that all is not broken or lost, that growth and restoration is possible.

We need faith because we live life wanting to believe that the center of our lives is constant that nothing will ever change. We get a job thinking we'll never lose it. We buy a house thinking we will never leave it. We start relationships believing they will last forever. The problem is that inevitably life does change. Change is a constant. The change we're experiencing now is a correction for years of unprecedented growth. We are constantly disrupted by change. Faith insulates us from the effects of negative change.

Faith helps us approach life with a sense of possibility not foreboding, worry, or helplessness. It dares us to imagine. It enables us to reach for what we can't see with just a little bit of courage. It gives us resilience in difficult times, and the ability to respond when feeling trapped.

For some faith has activated miracles, resulting in actions that defied the impossible, opening doors that appeared locked. What's funny is that it doesn't take very much to have faith working on your behalf.

In Luke chapter 17 of the Bible, Jesus is hanging out with his home boys, the apostles. Looking forward to performing miracles like Jesus, the apostles asked Jesus, "Increase our faith!" He responded, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.

Wow! Not only will activating faith protect the mind but also it may change the actual situation! During these trying economic times, "recession proof" your mind using faith. It is during times like these, times of personal struggle and challenge that we find a strength we've never experienced.

Engage in activities that inspire you. Find activities that will activate your faith. For some, those activities may be recollecting past events when it appeared all was lost but turned out different from what you expected. For some it may be going to a center, synagogue, church, mosque, or temple for spiritual support or to connect with a power greater than you. It's also a good time to spend time with friends engaging in "cheap" relaxation, fun, and games. Try writing your feelings in a journal. Document your efforts to manage during these though times.

Write out your hopes and dreams Then expect a miracle. Look for small coincidences, evidence that your faith is at work. Remember, it only takes a little. Think positive thoughts, speak only positive words. Demonstrate your faith through random acts of kindness, giving what you expect to get. Try it for at least three weeks, see what happens.

I've decided that rather than downgrade my expectations like many of the businesses around me. I'm going to ramp up. I'm going to set higher expectations, look for new unexpected opportunities, invest in myself by engaging in self improvement programs. By the time this recession is over I expect to see a new and improved me! Faith in action!

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE 10TH ANNIVERSARY

National Religious Leadership Roundtable celebrates 10th anniversary with a renewed commitment to promote pro-lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender voices of faith

The National Religious Leadership Roundtable, a leading group of pro-lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) faith leaders, is again stepping to the forefront to counter the voices of religious conservatives. While celebrating its 10th anniversary, the roundtable, convened by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, issued a statement reaffirming its commitment to work toward full equality for LGBT people.

"The National Religious Leadership Roundtable is a critical tool to combat anti-LGBT activism, now more than ever, as conservative religious voices seek to dominate society — despite growing support from people in the pews. We call on conservative religious communities to heal the hatred, we challenge progressive people of faith to speak out in our support and we remind our LGBT communities that supportive communities of faith are alive and well," says the Rev. Rebecca Voelkel, Institute for Welcoming Resources and faith work director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

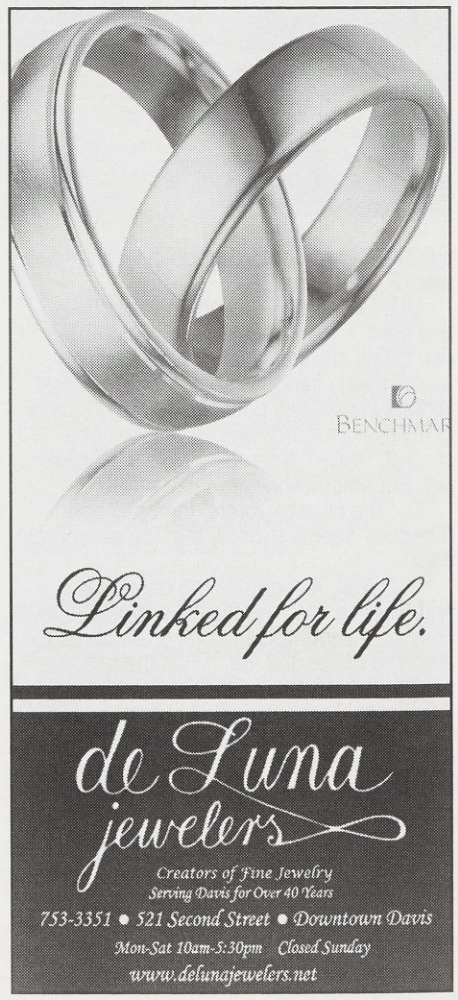
The roundtable, an interfaith network of leaders from more than 70 religious organizations representing millions of pro-LGBT people of faith, issued the statement at the National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change in Denver, Colo. The conference, which occurred on the heels of the inauguration, attracted more than 2,000 LGBT rights supporters.

In its statement, the roundtable said, in part, "... when conservative religious voices are lifted in oppression, our pro-LGBT religious voices must be lifted in liberation. ... This tradition of lifting up truth and speaking with the voice of LGBT spirituality as a gift cannot be denied. From confronting James Dobson to phone banking on anti-LGBT legislation to being arrested on the streets in protest, the National Religious Leadership Roundtable continues to speak truth to power." Read the full statement.

Roundtable representatives also urged "mainstream LGBT organizations to prioritize work with faith communities and in all planning assure the presence of LGBT faith leaders with an equal and fully empowered seat at the table." Read more.

Over the past decade, the roundtable has taken several strong stances on faith-oriented events of the day. Most recently it held a pre-election press conference with dozens of faith leaders from myriad traditions on the steps of San Francisco City Hall calling for the support of the freedom to marry.

"People of faith have played a critical role in the march toward equality," says Voelkel. "For the past 10 years, the roundtable has lifted pro-LGBT voices of faith in media and direct actions to say that faithful does not equal hateful of LGBT folks. We're sounding the call for pro-LGBT people of faith to continue this legacy."



Could it really be true that a single large volcanic eruption launches more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than the amount generated by all of humanity over history?

This argument that human-caused carbon emissions are merely a drop in the bucket compared to greenhouse gases generated by volcanoes has been making its way around the rumor mill for years. And while it may sound plausible, the science just doesn't back it up.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the world's volcanoes, both on land and undersea, generate about 200 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO_2) annually, while our automotive and industrial activities cause some 24 billion tons of CO_2 emissions every year worldwide. Despite the arguments to the contrary, the facts speak for themselves: Greenhouse gas emissions from volcanoes comprise less than one percent of those generated by today's human endeavors.

Another indication that human emissions dwarf those of volcanoes is the fact that atmospheric CO_2 levels, as measured by sampling stations around the world set up by the federally funded Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center, have gone up consistently year after year regardless of whether or not there have been major volcanic eruptions in specific years.

"If it were true that individual volcanic eruptions dominated human emissions and were causing the rise in carbon dioxide concentrations, then these carbon dioxide records would be full of spikes—one for each eruption," says Coby Beck, a journalist writing for online environmental news portal Grist.org. "Instead, such records show a smooth and regular trend."

Furthermore, some scientists believe that spectacular volcanic eruptions, like that of Mt. St. Helens in 1980 and Mt. Pinatubo in 1991, actually lead to short-term global cooling, not warming, as sulfur dioxide (SO_2), ash and other particles in the air and stratosphere reflect some solar energy instead of letting it into Earth's atmosphere. SO_2, which converts to sulfuric acid aerosol when it hits the stratosphere, can linger there for as long as seven years and can exercise a cooling effect long after a volcanic eruption has taken place.

Scientists tracking the effects of the major 1991 eruption of the Philippines' Mt. Pinatubo found that the overall effect of the blast was to cool the surface of the Earth globally by some 0.5 degrees Celsius a year later, even though rising human greenhouse gas emissions and an El Nino event (a warm water current which periodically flows along the coast of Ecuador and Peru in South America) caused some surface warming during the 1991-1993 study period.

In an interesting twist on the issue, British researchers last year published an article in the peer reviewed scientific journal Nature showing how volcanic activity may be contributing to the melting of ice caps in Antarctica—but not because of any emissions, natural or man-made, per se. Instead, scientists Hugh Corr and David Vaughan of the British Antarctic Survey believe that volcanoes underneath Antarctica may be melting the continent's ice sheets from below, just as warming air temperatures from human-induced emissions erode them from above.

Contacts: U.S. Geological Survey, usgs.gov; Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center, cdiac.esd.ornl.gov; British Antarctic Survey, antarctica.ac.uk.

It seems like more products are being packaged in #5 rather than #2 plastic today, and my local recycling agency won't take #5. I've also heard that #5 plastics are more toxic, which concerns me more than the recyclability issue. Which plastic is the better choice?

Polypropylene, which is marked with #5 inside the "chasing arrows" symbols on the bottom of plastic containers, is a lighter-weight plastic resin commonly used in dairy and deli packaging. Some companies have chosen this lighter plastic because it has a lower environmental impact to produce and transport.

High density polyethylene (HDPE), which is marked with #2, is a stiffer resin used to package cleaning products and also some dairy products. The most widely used resin type for consumer food products is polyethylene terephthalate, or PETE, which is marked with #1 and used for soda and water bottles.

According to Consumers Union's "Greener Choices" website, all three of these plastics are considered safe for their original use, though any of them can leak toxins when reused repeatedly. And all three can be recycled, though a lagging market leads some recycling locations to limit what they'll accept. There is also concern that widespread plastics recycling encourages more use of plastics, and that efforts would be better spent getting consumers to buy fewer plastic-encased products. Some even criticize the chasing-arrow labeling system for implying a higher level of recyclability than is presently available.

Why is a lighter-weight plastic better? According to dairy company Stonyfield Farm, their #5 one-quart yogurt container uses 30 percent less plastic than a #2 cup. Since it takes less material to make a thinner container, it reduces the amount of resin that needs to be manufactured. Stonyfield estimates that the use of #5 over #2 prevents the manufacture and disposal of more than 100 tons of plastic per year.

But savings comes from more than manufacturing. The heavier #2 plastics require more energy to transport. It's not only getting the yogurt from Stonyfield's plants to your store, but also getting the containers from the plastics manufacturer to their dairies. In fact, the company cites a packaging study by the Boston-based Tellus Institute which found that 95 percent of the environmental costs of packaging lie in production and less than five percent are associated with disposal.

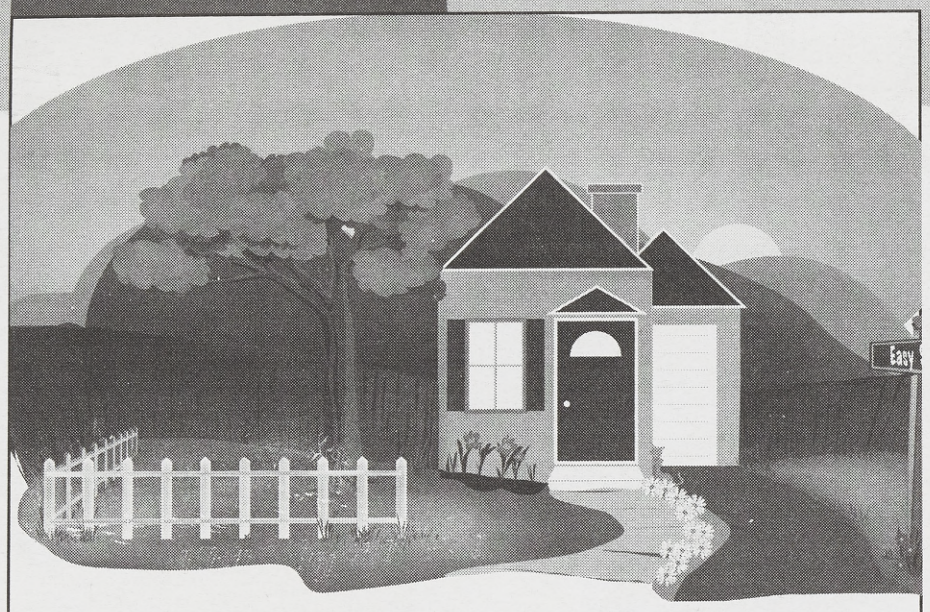
According to the website Earth 911, a national directory of recycling outlets, the best thing consumers can do is to choose items with less packaging and buy in bulk when possible. So the next time you reach into the dairy case, grab the quart or gallon-size yogurt instead of the single-serving cups. Then, make sure you recycle only the allowable plastics so you don't contaminate the lot. While recycling is important, it may be okay to landfill a product's packaging if it was created with an environmentally responsible plan.

Besides seeking alternatives to plastic packaging, consumers can affect overall plastic use by supporting legislation that would require manufacturers to take back their plastic packaging, which would encourage "cradle-to-grave" practices. Further, you can support legislation that mandates more use of recycled plastic content, which would reduce the overall amount of virgin plastic produced in the first place.

Contacts: Stonyfield Farm's Earth Actions, stonyfield.com/EarthActions, Consumer Reports' Greener Choices, greenerchoices.org; Earth 911, earth911.com.

Earth Talk

EMAGAZINE.COM



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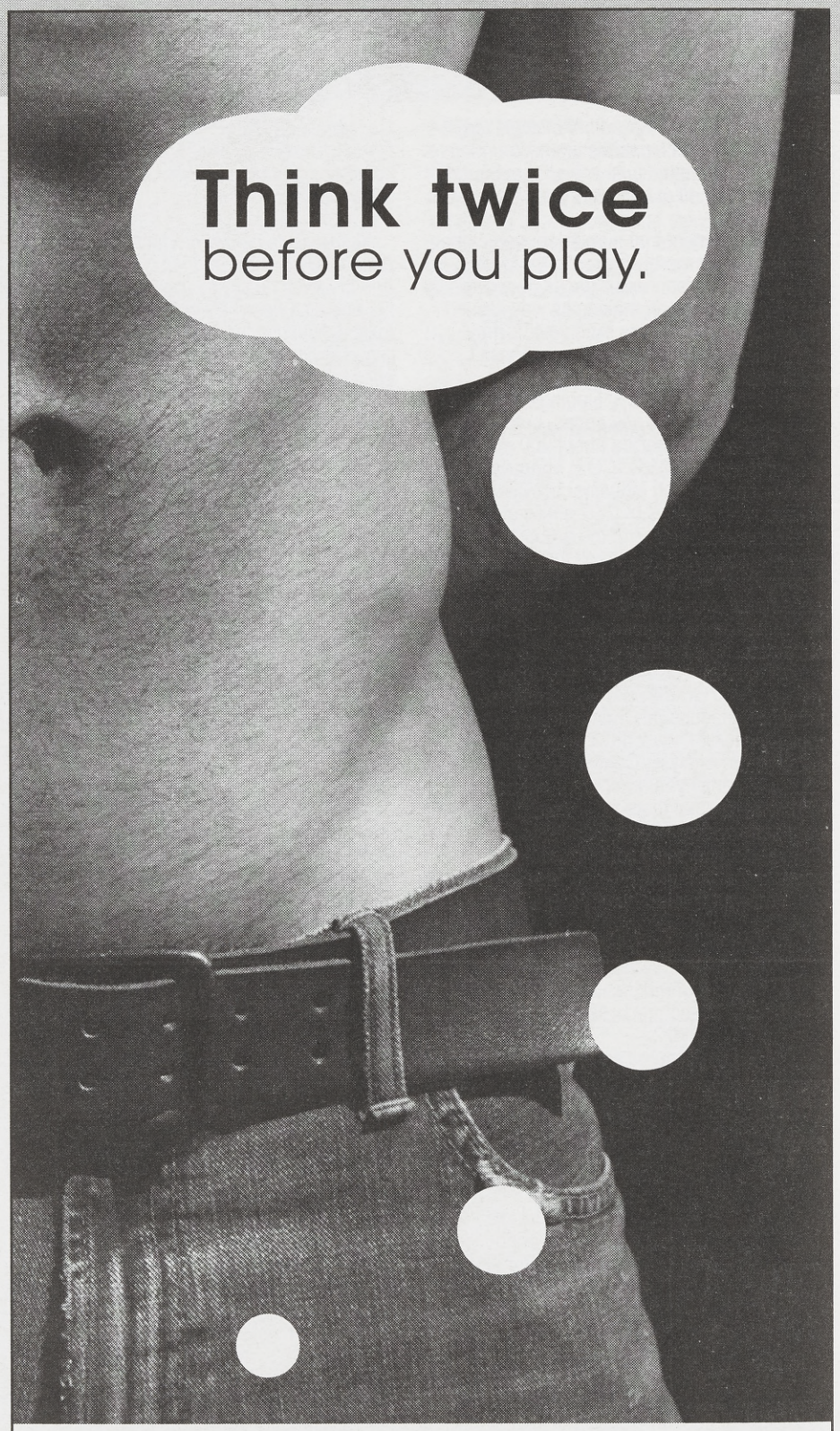

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GAYSACRAMENO.ORG IS AN ALL-INCLUSIVE, INTERACTIVE INFORMATION AND RESOURCE HUB FOR LGBT SACRAMENTO.

THE SITE OFFERS A SPRING BOARD TO ALL OTHER LGBT WEBSITES IN SACRAMENTO AND KEEPS OUR COMMUNITY INFORMED ON THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS AND WHERE TO FIND THE COMMUNITY RESOURCES THEY NEED.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

MGW MOM GUESS WHAT NEWSPAPER

LavenderLibrary

ACTIVISM

Equality Action NOW, a Sacramento based grassroots organization dedicated to mobilizing concerned citizens to promote equality for all. Formed in the wake of Prop. 8 the group works to see that LGBT voices and concerns are represented in the larger community. 916.446.1082, equalityactionnow.org

BARS

Badlands Dance Bar: Mon - Sat 4pm to 2am, Sun 2pm to 2am, 2003 K St., 916.448.8790, sacbadlands.com

BoJangles: 18+, 1119 21st St. (Moving Next To Headhunters Soon)

Bolt Bar: Leather/Cowboy/Bear, Open 5pm-2am Mon - Fri, 2pm-2am Sat and Sun, 2560 Boxwood St., sacbolt.com

Club 21: 1119 21st St.

Depot Video Bar: 2001 K St., 916-441-6823, Mon - Fri 4pm - 2am, Sat and Sun 2pm - 2am, thedepot.net

FACES Nightclub: 2000 K St., 916-448-7798, faces.net

Mercantile Saloon: 1928 L St., 916.447-0792

Headhunters/ROK: Restaurant, Bar Service until 2am, 1930 K Street, headhuntersonk.com

BUSINESS

Rainbow Chamber of Commerce: Business association promoting networking within the gay and lesbian business community and its supporters. rainbowchamber.com

Valley Rainbow Pages: A directory of GLBT-owned and GLBT-friendly businesses in the Greater Sacramento Valley. vrp.info

FAMILY

Camp it Up: (August 3-10) A family camp known for one-of-a-kind gay family vacations, we respect and celebrate all unique families. www.campitup.org

Camp Lavender Hill: A week-long summer camp for children, ages 9-14, of LGBT families. (2008 camp date has passed). camplavenderhill.org

Lesbian Families: A forum for Lesbian couples with children. geocities.com/lesbianfamilies/index.html

Sacramento PFLAG: Promotes health and well-being of LGBT persons, families and friends. Meets the third Tues. of each month at 7:30pm, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Mark's Way. 916-978-0410, pflagsacramento.org

FESTIVALS

Sacramento Pride: (June) Annual Pride celebration for Sacramento, hosted by the Sacramento Gay & Lesbian center. sacramentopride.org

Rainbow Festival: (Aug. 29 - 31, 2008) Annual LGBT street faire over Labor Day Weekend. Rainbow Festival is Run by CGNIE and takes place at 20th & K Sts. rainbowfestival.com

Sac. International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival: (Oct. 9-11, 2008) Annual LGBT film festival takes place over 5 days. siglff.org

Sac. Earth Day: Annual Festival coordinated by Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS), 909 12th Street, Suite 100, 916-444-0022, sacramentoearthday.net

GALLERIES

Crocker Art Museum: The longest continuously operating art museum in the West founded 1885. crockerartmuseum.org

Kennedy Gallery: 2110 K St. Tues.-Sat. Noon to 6pm and by Appointment. mmkgallery.com

THIS MONTH'S COMMUNITY DIRECTORY SPONSOR IS: GAYSACRAMENTO.ORG

THE SACRAMENTO LGBT NON-PROFIT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE DIRECTORY IS GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY GAYSACRAMENTO.ORG PROVIDING THE LATEST UP-TO-DATE LGBT INFORMATION ONLINE. TO BECOME A COMMUNITY DIRECTORY SPONSOR PLEASE CONTACT SALES@MOMGUESSWHAT.COM. TO CORRECT INFORMATION LISTED CONTACT EDITOR@MOMGUESSWHAT.COM

HIV | AIDS

Breaking Barriers: Provides a wide range of services for people living with HIV. 2200 21st St., 916-447-2437, breakingbarriers-sacramento.org

Capital City AIDS Fund:
Raises money for HIV/AIDS services in the Sac. area. CCAF's activities include Oscar® Night (Feb. 22, 2009), NorCal AIDS Challenge (May 15-18, 2009), and Sacramento Valley AIDS Run Walk (Sept.. 14, 2008). capcityaidsfund.org

CARES: HIV/AIDS health clinic, outreach, education and prevention. Free, rapid HIV testing M-F 9 am to 5 pm. 1500 21st St., 916-443-3299, caresclinic.org

Golden Rule Services: A minority based organization that resolves health, education, employment and criminal justice disparities in People of Color communities through culturally competent programs and resources. 4433 Florin Road, Suite 760. 916-427-GOLD, goldenrules.info

NorCal AIDS Challenge: (May 15-18, 2009) A 4-day, 330 mile bike ride to raise funds and awareness for HIV/AIDS norcalaidschallenge.net

Sacramento Valley AIDS Run/Walk: Sept. 14, 2008. 916-448-1110, sacvalleyaidsrunwalk.org

Sac. Valley Pozabilities: HIV+ social group. sacvalleypozabilities@yahoo.com, PO Box 161871, Sacramento, CA 95816-1871

Sierra Hope: Provides support for people with HIV & AIDS. Sierra HOPE, 1168 Booster Way, P.O. Box 159, Angels Camp, CA, 95222, 209.736.6792, sierrahope.org

Sunburst Projects: Providing support to families with children who are living with HIV/AIDS. 1025 19th Street, Suite 1A, 916-440-0889, sunburstprojects.org

IMPERIAL COURT

Court Of The Great Northwestern Imperial Empire (CGNIE): Parent organization for Sacramento's Court, La Kish Hayworth Memorial Fund, Fairy Godfathers' Fund and Rainbow Festival. myspace.com/cgnie

LAW | POLITICS

California Communities United Institute promotes the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; women; and people of low economic status. We urge elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal. calcomui.org

SAC Legal: Association of attorneys, legal professionals, and legislative advocates, affiliated with the Sacramento County Bar Assoc. that promotes equality the LGBT community. saclegal.org

California Capital Political Action Committee (CAP/PAC): A non-partisan, political action committee formed to provide a voice for the LGBT community in the political process. cappac.net

Green Party of Sacramento County: P.O. Box 2082, Sacramento, CA 95812, 916-484-4000, sacgreens.org

Libertarian Party of Sac.:
P.O. Box 3003, Orangevale, CA 95662, lpsacramento.com

Log Cabin Republicans:
logcabin.org/logcabinca/sacramento_chapter.html

Stonewall Democrats of Sac.: Helping elect qualified, openly LGBT people and Democratic candidates who support equal rights for LGBT. P O Box 161623 Sacramento, CA 95816-1623, 916-441-1787, sacstonewall.org

MARRIAGE - PENDING

Sacramento County Clerk Recorders Office, 600 8th St @ F St., ccr.saccounty.net

NEW MEDIA

Being Gay Today: Sacramento's oldest, still-running GLBT TV show. Comcast Cable. Access Sac, channel 17. Thurs. 10pm, Now on myspace and youtube. beinggaytoday.com

Checkered Nation Video Show: A gay-focused internet chat show in and around Sacramento. checkerednation.com

Transponder Radio: Internet radio show covering many transgender issues. transponder.com

PERFORMANCE

A Small Difference Women's Choral Ensemble: Women, under the direction of Sage Brown, dedicated to performing music with a message. smalldifference.org

Sac. Gay Men's Chorus: Produces up to three concerts a year, and performs throughout the year at events in and around Sacramento. sgmchorus.org

Sacramento DanceSport: The Largest Same-Sex Dance Program in the United States. Classes, performances and competition. sacdancesport.com

True Colors Women's Chorus: Women building a community through their love of music. 877-758-7827, truecolorschorus.org

RELIGION

A Church For All: Fosters an all encompassing spiritual community. 721 North B Street, Sacramento, CA, 95816-2073, 916-502-5603, spirit@achurchforall.org. achurchforall.org

Atheists and Other Freethinkers: Promoting the civic understanding and acceptance of atheism in our community. aofonline.org

Atonement Lutheran: Welcomes all people, regardless of race, language, previous denominational affiliation, gender, or sexual orientation. at-one.org

Grove of the Oak: An eclectic group of Druids, Wiccans, and other Pagans who gather twice a month and on the eight annual Celtic seasonal festivals, to share community, perform ritual, create magic, and support each other in our chosen earth-honoring pagan paths. groveoftheoak.org

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer: LGBT affirming and supports the Lutheran Lesbian & Gay Ministries. lcorsac.org

Pioneer Congregational Church: LGBT open and affirming. 2700 L Street, 916-443-3727, uccwebsites.net/pioneercongsacramentoca.html

St. Mark's United Methodist Church: A Christian community welcoming a diverse congregation. stmarksumc.com

St. Paul's Episcopal Church: A Christian community that embraces one and all to worship together at God's table. 1430 J Street, 916.446.2620, stpaulssacramento.org

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral: LGBT affirming. Christian worship, life and ministry. 2620 Capitol Ave., 916-446-2513, trinitycathedral.org

Valley Ministries: Existing to communicate God's love and accept all people. 4118 Coronado Ave, Stockton. 209-464-5244, valleyministries.com

Westminster Church Sacramento: A community of faith accepting all people solely on the basis of their affirmation of faith in Jesus Christ. westminsac.org

RESOURCES

GaySacramento.org: Interactive online resource for LGBT Sac. news, events and community resources. gaysacramento.org

Lavender Library: Serves the LGBT community as a lending library and archives as well as houses LGBT activities. Loans books, periodicals, DVDs (general and erotica), to members. lavenderlibrary.org

outsacramento.com: Internet links, photos, message board and news for LGBT Sacramento. outsacramento.com

Sac. Gay & Lesbian Center: Serving the LGBT of Greater Sacramento and surrounding counties, providing facilitated discussion groups for LGBT youth and adults, counseling, legal services, HIV prevention and education services and programs for LGBT seniors, families and people living with HIV/AIDS. saccenter.org

SENIORS

Senior Gays: A resource for the senior LGBT and friendly community. SeniorGays.org

SOCIAL GROUPS

Capital City Squares: A square dance club for LGBT people who want to learn and enjoy Modern Western Square Dancing. iagsdc.org/capitalcity

Males Au Naturel Sacramento (MANS) - A gay/bi male naturist organization for men who enjoy social naturism in positive. groups.yahoo.com/group/malesaunaturelsacramento
Natomas LGBTQ: A group to connect Natomas area queers for in-person social activities. An alternative to the bar scene. natomaslgbtq.wordpress.com
Sac Woof Society: A social group for bears and bear lovers. sacwoofsociety.net

Gay Men's Book Group: A literary group for Sac. gay men. Meets once a month (usually 3rd Wednesday). groups.yahoo.com/group/sacgaybookgroup

Pink Pistols - LGBT group with an interest in shooting sports and self defense. pinkpistols.org/local/sacramento

Sacramento Professional Men's Group: Alternative lifestyle men who get together for networking and social gatherings with other professional men. groups.yahoo.com/group/SacramentoProfessionalMensGroup

Sac. Valley Bears: A social and charitable organization providing bears and bear admirers. sacvalleybears.org

Sac. Valley Knights: Northern California motorcycle club whose membership consists solely of those who own and ride motorcycles. valleyknights.org

Sac. Valley LeatherCorps: Gay men's and women's organization seeking to educate and mentor members of the Leather/BDSM communities through classes and other club activities. svlclub.org

SPORTS

CHEER Sacramento: Volunteer cheerleading squad now cheering at games for West Sacramento Wolverines. cheersacramento.org

Frontrunners of Sacramento: Social group inclusive of all types, sizes, dispositions, and levels of activities with running and running events as a main focus. frsac.org

Gay & Lesbian Sierrans: Lesbians and gay men who enjoy outdoor adventures and camaraderie. motherlode.sierraclub.org/gls

Gay Sport Bike Riders of Sacramento - Gay sport bike enthusiasts who meet, post rides and related links. Serious enthusiasts 18+ are welcome. autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/SAC_GSR

River City Bowlers: Gay and Lesbian Bowling league. Winter league runs from Sept..-May and averages 22 teams per season. Summer league lasts 12-13 weeks beginning in June. rivercitybowlers.homestead.com/about.html

Sac. Capital Crossroads Gay Rodeo Association (SCCGRA): Sacramento's gay

rodeo chapter. capitalcrossroads.org

Sacred City Derby Girls (SCDG): Sacramento Women's Roller Derby team. sacredcityderbygirls.com

THEATRE | FILM

Lambda Players: LGBT theatre company now in its 19th Season. 1028 R Street, 916-444-8229, lambdaplayers.com

24th Street Theatre: Hosts Runaway Stage which does musicals and larger well-known plays. Facilities for large meetings, lectures, film screenings and performances Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th Street, 916-452-3005, sierra2.org

Sacramento Theatre Company: Professionally produced contemporary and traditional theatrical works. 1419 H Street, Box Office: 888-4-STC-TIX, sactheatre.org

Capital Stage - Capital Stage, Delta King: 1000 Front Street, www.capstage.org

The B Street Theatre - 2711 B St., 916-443-5300, bstreettheatre.org

Mondavi Center - 530-754-ARTS, One Shields Ave. Davis, mondaviarts.org
Shiny Object: Weekly showings of independent films and Rocky Horror Picture Show. 600 4th St. West Sacramento, shiny-object.com

The Crest Theatre: 1013 K St., 916-44-CREST. Shows independent and GLBT films. Often hosts Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. thecrest.com

TRANS SUPPORT

Sac. Gay & Lesbian Center Trans Support: Counseling services available for transgender people. 916-442-0185, Ext. 102. 1927 L St., saccenter.org
Kings of Drag: Performance troupe of women dressing in male drag. kingsofdrag.com

Sac. Gender Alliance: Provides recreational and educational needs of the trans community, their spouses, family members and related professionals. 916-442-0185, Ext. 141, saccenter.org

Sigma Delta Gamma "Sac. Delta Girls": A chapter of Tri-Ess, an educational, social and support group for heterosexual cross-dressers, their spouses or partners and their families. 916-359-2328, geocities.com/Sigma_Delta_Gamma

WOMEN

Adventure Out Women: Business networking, social activities, special events and recreational adventures throughout California year-round. adventureoutwomen.com

Lesbian Cancer Support:Meets third Monday of each month at 6:30pm. Bring partners or support people with you. ROXANNE1040@aol.com

Rainbow Womyn (Sac.): Online social group for Womyn. groups.msn.com/RainbowWomynofSacramentoCA

Sac NOW: Feminist news, actions, and opportunities. Meets monthly on the 3rd Thurs., 7pm, at the Hart Senior Center at 915 27th Street (27th & J St.). sacnow.org

Sacto Girls: Lesbian social group for women in the Sacramento and surrounding areas. members.aol.com/sactogirls/index.html

Sisters of Scota Women's Motorcycle Club (SOSWMC): A tightknit sisterhood on women motorcycle riders who plan social events and raise funds for various charities. SOSWMC@hotmail.com, soswmc.org

Sac. Area Lesbian Health Resource Guide: A guide to help lesbians in the greater Sac. area identify and obtain services from providers who are sensitive to the needs of lesbian, bi and trans women. saclesbianhealth.com

Single Lesbians of Sac.: A community of single lesbians in the Sac. area interested in meeting other lesbians for the purpose of dating. groups.msn.com/SingleLesbiansofSacramento

Women On Wednesdays: Social discussion/activity group meets each Weds. at the Gay & Lesbian Center, 1927 L St. 7-9pm. Open to lesbian, bi and trans women. saccenter.org

Womyn Over the Rainbow: A group open to lesbian womyn over the age of 40 for the purpose of building friendship. groups.msn.com/WomynOverTheRainbow

YOUTH

CSUS Pride Center: Open to Sac State LGBT students. Lassen Hall 3011, 6000 J Street, 916.278.8720, Email: pride@csus.edu, csus.edu/pride

Delta Lambda Phi: A non-secret, non-hazing, national social fraternity founded by gay men for all men. dlp.org/iota/DLP.htm

Lambda Delta Lambda: Queer-friendly Sisterhood/Sorority social network on campus, accepting of all social identities and backgrounds. ldlucdavis.org/about.htm

Modesto LGBTQ Youth: GLBTQ Youth in Modesto and surrounding areas. myspace.com/lgbtqmodesto

Rainbow Club Of American River College: LGBT students on the American River Campus. geocities.com/arc_glbtqclub

Queer Straight Alliance CSUS: Social/Activist group on campus. myspace.com/queerstraightalliance

RESPECT Sacramento: A grassroots organization dedicated to creating safe schools for all sexual minority people in Sacramento area schools. Meets the second Weds. of the month, 6:30pm at Lavender Library, 1414 21st St. 916-733-2135, RespectSacramento.org

Sac Youth Yahoo Group: Forum for LGBT and friendly youth under 21 years old. sacyouth.net groups.yahoo.com/group/sacyouth

City College LGBT Club: 3835 Freeport Boulevard, 916-558-2111 Advisor: Gayle Pitman, Behavioral & Social Sciences, PitmanG@scc.losrios.edu, wserver.scc.losrios.edu/~glbt/index.html

U.C. Davis LGBT Resource Center: Campus Center for LGBT students. 530-752-2452, lgbcenter.ucdavis.edu

REGIONAL

Amador County GLBTQQ Support Group: Amador County Mental Health - call Mary Pulskamp at 209-223-6412

Central Valley Stonewall Democratic Club: Helps elect qualified, openly LGBT people to public office, as well as Democratic Party candidates that support equal rights for the LGBT community. cvstonewall.org

Diversity R Us: Support group for Yuba City-Marysville GLBT. groups.yahoo.com/group/diversityrus

Foothill Lesbians and Gays Social Network (FLAG): An organization for the LGBT community in the Sierra Foothills of No. Cal. flagamador.webs.com

Gaysonoma.com: Online Guide to events, personals, gay businesses, community organizations, classifieds, for Sonoma County LGBT. gaysonoma.com

"If The Shoe Fits": Gay/lesbian organization in the Foothills of El Dorado County that provides social/recreational activities for members. itsfnews.org

Nevada County Pride: Social network of gays and lesbians in western Nevada County in California. nevadacountypride.org

Out In The Mother Lode: Social network for fun/support among the LGBT in the central sierra foothills. outinthemotherlode.org
PFLAG Sonora/Mother Lode Chapter: Meets on the third Tuesday of Jan., Apr., July, and Oct., 6:30pm, at the Tuolumne County Library. Other events scheduled through the year. pflagsonora.org

Rainbow Frontier: A website for LGBT adults in rural/frontier areas of Northeastern California funded Plumas County Public Health Agency, 1-800-801-6330 or 530-283-6358, rainbowfrontier.org

Sierra Gay Men's Network: A newsletter & blog with news for Gay Men and their friends in the Sierra Foothills of California. sgmn.org

Sisters of Scota Foothills Chapter: Women's Motorcycle Club who rides mostly in the foothills. soswmcfoothills.org

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Solano Pride Center: Support for LGBT of Solano County. Solano Pride Center, 1125 Missouri St., Ste. 203-D, Fairfield, CA 94533, 707-427-2356, solanopride.org

Stanislaus Pride Center: Resources and support for LGBT persons in Stanislaus and surrounding counties. stanpride.org

Stonewall Alliance of Chico: Services and support for LGBT people in Chico and surrounding areas. stonewallchico.org

Western Slope Men's Social Group: Online forum for gay/bi men on/near the Western Slope of the Sierra Nevada's (between Sac. and So. Lake Tahoe). groups.yahoo.com/group/WesternSlopeMensSocialGroup

Yuba-Sutter Unity: Social, education & community involvement. gayyubasutter.com, groups.yahoo.com/group/Yuba-Sutter-Unity

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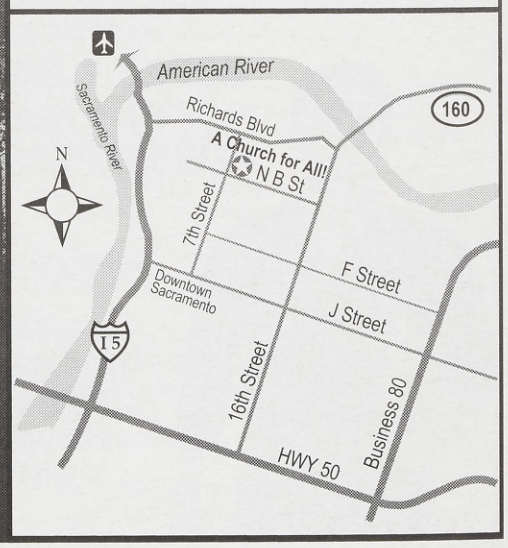

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